

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Singing...
The year's most eccentric musical event - the Messiah from Scratch
... the Blues
David Hands reports the Oxford versus Cambridge match at Twickenham
Peace...
Spectrum interview: Lech Walesa and the Nobel Peace Prize



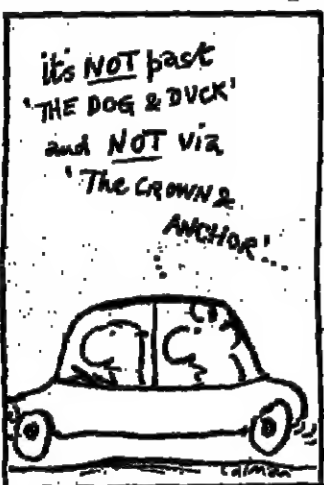
... women
To be or not to be: decisions for the older mother

Eurohopes
Britain's hopes in tomorrow's European football matches

Police given plastic bullets

Twenty thousand plastic bullets have been supplied to 15 police forces in England and Wales, according to a Commons written answer by Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Home Office. The bullets are for public order use by urban and rural forces.

Walesa plea
Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner, has appealed to the West to lift sanctions against Poland.



Safety campaign
The Department of Transport last night launched its Christmas campaign against drinking and driving with two 10 second television advertisements.

Pound slumps
The Pound fell sharply yesterday against a strong dollar, closing at \$1.4480 after touching an all-time low of \$1.4443. Sterling held its own against most European currencies.

NGA talks go on
Talks in London to settle the dispute between Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah, chairman of the Messenger Group of Newspapers, and the National Graphical Association resume this morning after an eight hour session ended last night.

Judge removed
Judge Bruce Campbell, QC, has been removed for "misbehaviour" after his conviction last week for smuggling whisky and cigarettes.

Andropov better
President Andropov is on the road to recovery and in control of the affairs of state, according to a senior Soviet official.

Leader, page 15
Letters: On exam results, from Mr J Swallow and Mr F Jarvis, and others: polygraphs, from Mr G Gillman; GLC from Mr R G Murray, and Mr R H Hammond

Leading articles: Lebanon; house conveyancing; Lithuania. Features, pages 10, 12, 14 Partners, not just allies; Nicaragua: playing for time? Home Office silence on civil defence. Spectrum: The cult of oil design. Fashion: Little black dressing.

Obituary, page 16
George Headley, Alfred Tarski Computer Horizons, pages 19-21

Nato's new common language: a critical view of Britain's approach to information handling: a new set of competition winners

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Reagan will keep pressure on Syria to leave Lebanon

Despite Sunday's losses in aircraft and personnel, the United States is to keep up its military pressure on Syria to pull out of Lebanon.

Fourteen died, 80 were injured when a car bomb blew up a block of flats in a Beirut Muslim area. A pro-Israel group claimed responsibility.

Moscow branded the US raids on Syrian positions as banditry and pledged Damascus more aid.

Italy's Cabinet meets today and may withdraw its 2,000 peacekeeping troops who have no air cover.

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration made it clear yesterday that it regards Sunday's unprecedented air-strikes against Syrian military positions in Lebanon as a success. This is in spite of the loss of two American aircraft and the subsequent deaths of eight US Marines during a retaliatory attack by Syrian-backed Druze militia.

It was now up to Syria to decide whether to stay in Lebanon and risk further retaliatory strikes, or to embark on serious negotiations with the Lebanese Government on removing its troops, officials in Washington said.

American reconnaissance flights over Syria continued yesterday with the intention of showing the Damascus Government that the US intends to keep up the pressure. President Reagan has said he does not seek a broader confrontation with Syria, but at the same time has given a warning that US forces would continue to defend themselves against hostile fire.

In Moscow senior Kremlin officials said the Soviet Union would render "assistance and help" to Syrian forces in Lebanon and condemned American air raids on Syrian positions as "banditry".

Earlier, however, President Reagan insisted that the air-

strike by 28 aircraft from carriers was not an invitation to Damascus for war.

Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, the American Under Secretary of State, asked on American television about the consequences of the raid, said: "If you are asking me are we

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday described reports of a deal with America to oust Syria from Lebanon as panic-mongering. In a related move, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem released a paper detailing the "unprecedented Syrian military build-up".

Shamir denial, page 7

prepared to go to war with Syria in Lebanon. I'm prepared to tell you no.

There can be no doubt however that the American action was intended to send a political signal to Damascus that it must expect more military pressure from the United States and Israel if it continues to refuse to pull its 40,000 troops out of Lebanon.

American officials conceded that the administration's tough new approach towards Syria contained high risks. Sunday's attack marked the first direct

clash of United States and Syrian military forces and, because of Syria's intimate military ties with the Soviet Union, the closest approach to a United States-Soviet confrontation in the Middle East for a decade.

The officials also acknowledged that the deepening of the United States' combat involvement in Lebanon was certain to increase domestic pressure on President Reagan to pull United States peacekeeping forces out of Beirut. Several Democratic presidential candidates have already expressed concern about the latest United States action.

Mr George McGovern said that "step by step" the United States was approaching war with Syria while Senator Alan Cranston accused President Reagan of being trigger happy and reckless.

Even supporters of the Administration expressed concern about the US's deepening involvement. Senator Howard Baker, the Senate Majority leader, said: "The sooner we can find a way to stabilize (the situation in Lebanon) and get our people out of there, the better off we're going to be."

The decision to adopt a

Continued on back page, col 2



Lebanon's agony: A woman grieves after the blast. Photographs, back page.

Kohl offers hope for resolving Britain's EEC budget dispute

From Ian Murray, Athens

West Germany last night put forward a new scheme for solving Britain's EEC budget dispute which for the first time opened the way for serious negotiations at the three-day European summit in Athens.

It would not cost Britain's contribution to the 2300m a year which Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday said she wanted, but it could provide the framework for a settlement.

The European leaders had spent a full and largely futile day arguing the niceties of the common agricultural policy, iterating and reiterating national points of view which have changed little despite hundreds of hours of discussions at official and ministerial level over the past six months.

President Mitterrand at one stage amazed the British delegation by putting forward a two-year-old French idea that Britain should have nothing but a short-term budget deal.

He never withdrew the idea, but according to a British spokesman - "we are not sure that this was ever made seriously therefore I don't think it is to be seriously withdrawn."

With discussions bogged down, the spokesman said: "We were clearly getting nowhere very fast. President Mitterrand therefore asked for an adjournment to give time to absorb the mass of proposals and counter proposals which were being produced with bewildering frequency from many delegations."

"By the time the meeting resumed British officials had detected three elements from among the mass of paper - one

Man held on London bombings

By Richard Ford and Stewart Tandler

Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad continued interviewing a Belfast man yesterday about the Provisional IRA's 1981 autumn bombing campaign in which three people died.

Mr Thomas Quigley, aged 28, was arrested by the Royal Ulster Constabulary last summer on the word of an informer, Robert Brown, and accused of possessing a mortar bomb.

Mr Quigley is understood to have been arrested on Friday in the Andersonstown area of west Belfast. He has been held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act at Paddington Green.

He is being questioned about three bombings. One outside Chelsea barracks in October blasted a coach carrying soldiers.

A week later, a device exploded under the car of Lieutenant-General Sir Stuart Pringle, Commander of the Royal Marines, who was seriously injured. Days later, a bomb exploded in Oxford Street, killing Mr Kenneth Howarth, a Scotland Yard explosives expert.

The police are also understood to be questioning him about bombings in Hyde Park and Regent's Park last year.

Sectional killing, page 2

Car bomb kills 14 and leaves 80 wounded in Beirut

Beirut (Reuters) - A huge car bomb exploded outside an apartment block in south Beirut yesterday, killing up to 14 people and wounding more than 80 others.

The blast, in a heavily-populated Muslim area of the city, set fire to stores of paint and turpentine in a building across the street and firemen fought for hours to douse the flames.

A group calling itself the Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from Foreigners called a news agency in Beirut to claim responsibility for what it called a "barbecue operation". There was no confirmation of the claim.

The front said the operation was a warning to all who call for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. Syria must leave first, it declared.

Mr Hassan Yousef, a local resident who was in a nearby building when the bomb went

off, said some of his family were killed and wounded.

"They say men do not cry. Believe me, I cry," he said. "Why do they do this? We have no enemies here. There are no guns here. We have nothing here," he said in anger and bewilderment.

"Why? Because we are Muslims." Muslims have been in the forefront of demands that Israel should pull its troops out of Lebanon.

Security sources estimated the car contained 330lb of high explosive.

Beirut radio quoted civil defence staff working at the scene of the blast as saying 14 had died, although security sources said only 10 had been killed.

US Marine officers reported complete calm at their positions around Beirut airport after eight Marines were killed and two

wounded by shelling on Sunday night.

Their commander, Brigadier-General James Joy, said the troops who died had left their bunkers and moved into a fighting position designed for only four men.

He said that a single 120 mm mortar round scored a direct hit, killing all eight and wounding two others.

The losses were the heaviest the Marines have suffered in a single combat incident since arriving in Lebanon 15 months ago as part of a Western peacekeeping force supporting the Beirut Government.

Marine Colonel Ray Smith said the mortar round landed during a three-hour battle in which unidentified assailants attacked the Marines.

He refused to say who had attacked but said the fire was coming from the east and south-east.

Commons questions

British peace troops will stay

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor



Mr Adley: Cloak of respectability

Renewed concern about the safety of the British contingent in Lebanon, and universal disapproval of the American air strikes against Syrian positions, were voiced in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, deputizing for the absent Sir Geoffrey Howe, reassured few if any MPs when he said that the security of the British troops was the Government's prime concern but made plain that there was no present intention of withdrawing them.

He said British troops were making an important contribution, and that their presence was welcomed by all communities and all Governments in the region.

Mr Rifkind defended the "inherent right of self-defence" of the United States, and said Britain's approach would be the same. But although he repeatedly said that the Americans described their actions as self-defence, he pointedly omitted to endorse their judgment, and

several of his replies held a note of reproach.

It was vital for all parties to show restraint, he said, and to consider whether their actions were likely to reduce or increase tension. It was for the American Government "to explain and justify to the world" if the air raids were a proper course of action.

Mr Denis Healey, Labour's shadow foreign secretary, was at

his most hostile, saying that all justification for the multinational force had disappeared now that President Reagan had formed a military axis with Israel against Syria and the Soviet Union, and had intervened in the conflict on a massive scale.

He wanted British troops withdrawn forthwith from a position where they served no useful purpose.

Mr Enoch Powell, Ulster Unionist MP for Down South, said the Government should distance itself from the insanity and inhumanity of the Americans.

Mr Robert Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch, complained that the British contingent was being used to give a cloak of respectability to an American action which was dangerous and stupid.

No one but Mr Rifkind defended the Americans, for whom the House had shown much sympathy only a few weeks ago.

Parliamentary report, page 4

MP says House Buyers' Bill has good chance

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The House Buyers' Bill, which would end the solicitors' monopoly in conveyancing registered domestic property and would speed up the house selling process, was published yesterday.

The controversial bill, promoted by Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, is strongly opposed by the Law Society, representing 44,000 practising solicitors, but Mr Mitchell believed it had a "reasonably good chance of success".

The measure is intended to cut the cost of house transactions, and although initially savings might be marginal, they could eventually cut the cost by half, Mr David Tench, the Consumer Association legal officer, believes.

Mr Mitchell's Private Member's Bill, has all-party backing. The Government has not decided whether to support it but its sponsors believe it is favoured by several ministers.

Details of the Bill, page 2
Leading article, page 15

At home, particularly warm memories remain of the acclaimed Barbiere season in which Rafael Kubelick was our conductor in residence. Equally unforgettable were the performances of Stockhausen's 'Gruppen' in the first of this year's Barbiere seasons - a work, it might be added, that is rarely attempted anywhere in the world today.

The year started less conventionally than usual with an enthusiastically received concert of Frank Zappa's latest orchestral compositions and subsequent recordings with the composer. No reference to recordings should omit that of the film score of the record breaking 'Return of the Jedi', while later in the year we were delighted to receive Cymophane's 1983 Record of the Year award (Tipset's Triple Concerto: Paul, Immi, Kirshbaum and Sir Colin Davis).

BP and Sohio had been hoping that Mukluk would help compensate for falling production from the massive Prudhoe Bay field from which output is due to fall in mid-1986.

Moscow hints at another walkout

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the Soviet Chief of Staff, yesterday described the Geneva talks on medium-range missiles (INF) as a "dead letter" and hinted that Russia might also walk out of the talks on strategic arms reduction (Start).

Mr Georgy Kornienko, the Deputy Foreign Minister, said there was no prospect of the talks being merged, and he was pessimistic about the chances of a meeting between Mr Andrei Gromyko and Mr George Shultz at next month's Stockholm disarmament conference.

Marshal Ogarkov repeatedly accused the United States of negotiating in bad faith at the medium-range talks. The Start talks were clearly "going in the same direction".

Mr Ogarkov said the American position at the Start talks, as in the case of INF, was neither logical nor serious. Washington's proposals, if implemented, would mean a "radical disruption of Soviet strategic rocket forces", which was unacceptable. Russia remained committed to reductions, but Washington had no intention of reaching a mutually acceptable agreement.

As when he first faced the press over the Korean airliner disaster, Marshal Ogarkov handled questions adroitly, pointing to a chart to demonstrate that the American aim at Geneva had been to develop a first-strike capability in Europe rather than reduce armaments.

He said Soviet counter-deployments in Eastern Europe were not a routine modernization, as the West claimed, but a direct response to cruise and Pershing.

He gave warning that Soviet missiles would equal cruise and Pershing-2 in accuracy, power yield, flight time and targeting.

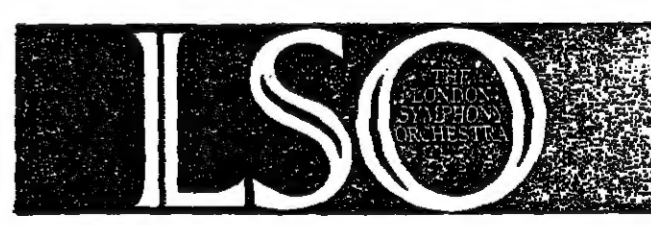
Mr Kornienko hinted that Moscow's view of the future of Start might become clearer on Thursday, when the next round is held in Geneva. He said it was pointless to talk of a possible merger of Start and INF, since the medium-range talks had been "scuttled" by the United States, and "one can only merge things which exist".

Marshal Ogarkov said Bonn's acceptance of Pershing missiles made West Germany the target for a Soviet retaliatory strike, and was a strange and dangerous move by a country which had already caused two world wars.

Marshal Ogarkov said he had seen the American television film, 'The Day After', which shows the effect of a Soviet nuclear attack on a Mid-Western town. "The danger depicted are real. It is time to put an end to this nuclear madness," he said. He hoped it would make Americans think about nuclear war and act to prevent it.

Andropov "recovers", page 6

Photograph, page 6



By any measure 1983 has been an exciting and outstanding year for the London Symphony Orchestra - a year of innovation in which the Orchestra has broken new ground both here and overseas. A year too in which Claudio Abbado was appointed Music Director of the Orchestra, the first such appointment in its history.

While currently performing a unique cycle of concertos celebrating the centenary of Mahler's birth, which in the course of the next few days takes the Orchestra to Vienna and Paris, and welcoming in turn to its Barbiere season the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and the Ensemble Intercontemporain, the Orchestra has also completed another highly successful world tour this year, and played in the festivals of Salzburg, Edinburgh, Berlin and Helsinki. During the world tour the London Symphony Orchestra was honoured to play a part in the 'Britain Salutes New York' festival, and the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Sydney Opera House.

At home, particularly warm memories remain of the acclaimed Barbiere season in which Rafael Kubelick was our conductor in residence. Equally unforgettable were the performances of Stockhausen's 'Gruppen' in the first of this year's Barbiere seasons - a work, it might be added, that is rarely attempted anywhere in the world today.

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BP and Sohio had been hoping that Mukluk would help compensate for falling production from the massive Prudhoe Bay field from which output is due to fall in mid-1986.

Meanwhile the important work of the Shell/LSO Scholarship and Workshops in association with the Shell/LSO National Tour continued. We were particularly gratified to note Alan Blyth's comment in his Daily Telegraph article of 15 October: "... the admirable Shell/LSO Scholarships and Workshops which have already indicated a most persuasive line of approach for developing talent."

What The Papers Said
Hearing last night's performance by the London Symphony Orchestra, the first professional mounting of the work (Gruppen) in Britain for several years, was the walking into Charing Cross Cathedral after walking do with postcards. ... The Times 30 March

The LSO and Claudio Abbado, together with his co-conductors Edward Downes and James Judd, deserve our thanks for intruding so rare an element of novelty and risk into the safe predictability of the London orchestral scene. Sunday Times 3 April

... Claudio Abbado ... one of the great musicians of the world, and with him, the orchestra is one of the great orchestras of the world. Boston Globe 2 May

... music lovers dream come true ... this concert, for those lucky enough to be there, a once in a lifetime's experience. Sydney Sun 17 May

Rafael Kubelick's month-long residence with the LSO moved into its final phase this week, leaving in its wake a trail of memories for those of us fortunate to have caught even a glimpse of his artistry. The Times 20 July

Salzburg Festival: ... breathtaking brilliance and virtuosity ... highest orchestral artistry ... Salzburger Nachrichten 2 August

The reception could hardly have been more rapturous. ... The Guardian 4 August

House Buyers' Bill would stimulate competition and 'blow away cobwebs'

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The reason for the House Buyers' Bill, which would end the solicitors' monopoly in the conveyancing of registered property, was described graphically yesterday by Mr David Trench, the Consumers' Association legal officer, who has been closely involved in its drafting.

"A blast or, failing that, a whirl of competition from outside the legal profession is needed to blow away the cobwebs that bedevil the business of buying houses," he said.

The number of people owning their own houses has increased from 10 per cent in 1920 to about 60 per cent now, but the Consumers' Association says the present system is designed for a time when only a small percentage of the population owned houses.

"Solicitors are still using quill pen procedures in the age of the computer," Mr Trench commented.

The Bill aims to speed up, and to make cheaper and more efficient, the system of buying and selling houses, by stimulating competition among professionals and non-professionals concerned with house transfer, and by encouraging greater use of computers.

fund or special fidelity type insurance, would be needed by conveyancers wishing to handle clients' money.

The Bill would also allow solicitors to advertise their conveyancing services.

Mr Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP who is introducing the Bill, said it was common-sense and straightforward measure designed to serve the consumer by making property sales more efficient, quicker and cheaper.

Mr Bowen Wells, Conservative MP for Hertford and Stortford, one of the Bill's main sponsors, said: "At the moment we are faced with gump and house-buying daisy chains which, if you break any one link, a whole set of operations falls through. It has become an unethical mess."

Another sponsor, Mr Ken Weech, Labour MP for Ipswich, said: "If there is any branch of public life where some long-needed competition is overdue, it is the conveyancing of residential property. There is enormous opposition to this from vested interests behind the scenes but we are absolutely confident that the important people are on our side - the consumers."

local authority to provide details within 14 days. Cutting delays would reduce the chances of gump and daisy chains of interlocking transactions.

The Bill also aims to simplify the survey system by encouraging "surveyors" - a structural survey commissioned by the vendor, on which the buyer could depend by making the surveyor liable to the buyer.

Building societies could be required to consider a vendor's survey as a valuation report for a mortgage, so that the number of surveys on a property could be reduced.

The Law Society replies that the main criticisms of the present system are delays and expense.

The Law Society believes delay is caused by many factors, including the buyer's needs and the time taken for searches, but rarely by a dilatory solicitor "because of the pressures brought to bear on him not only by his own client but by the other parties' solicitors."

On expense, the Law Society quotes the Royal Commission on Legal Services as saying that conveyancing charges were not excessive. It says a survey shows the cost of conveyancing in Britain compares well with that in many other Western countries. In addition, solicitors are being encouraged to give detailed written estimates so that clients can "shop around."



Police removing Greenham Common protesters who occupied the reception area of the Ministry of Defence in London yesterday. Twenty women had sought a meeting with Mr Heseltine after invading the building.

TV ban on CND advertising

By David Hewson

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has been barred from advertising its magazine on television to coincide with Saturday's showing of the nuclear war film, *The Day After*.

Mr Will Howard, CND's advertising coordinator, said yesterday that the organization had submitted scripts for two television advertisements, one promoting its magazine, *Sanity*, and the other saying that more facts and information about nuclear weapons could be obtained from CND.

members on television, but he could not understand why their scripts were banned when ones for magazines about war were allowed.

The advertisement was blocked by the Independent Television Contractors Association, which vets advertising before it is scrutinized by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Mr John Jackson, the association's head of copy clearance, said last night: "The Broadcasting Act itself basically says that no political body can insert an advertisement. Even a non-political body

cannot insert an advertisement which shows partiality on a matter of controversy.

I am afraid CND was caught on one of these because it is inescapably a body whose objectives are political."

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, watched *The Day After* in his office yesterday before leaving for the Nato meeting in Brussels amid confusion about his attitude towards airtime to give his views on it.

Newspapers in anarchy, publishers' chief says

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Fleet Street industrial relations are in a state of anarchy and unions and employers must sit down to sort out their problems if the industry is to avoid "being bled to death," Mr John Le Page, director-general of the Newspaper Publishers Association said yesterday.

Association officials are working on a "lay-off clause" which publishers would invoke to suspend without pay workers affected by unofficial strikes. And a pay offer due to more than 30,000 printworkers in London and Manchester may be reduced by 2 per cent to pay for the £10m losses caused by strikes in support of the National Graphical Association (NGA) dispute with Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah.

Negotiations on the unions' annual wage claim due to start last Friday have been postponed until the present crisis in the industry dies down, but Mr Le Page made clear yesterday that the employers will be seeking radical changes in relationships with the unions as part of a new deal operative from January 1.

"Agreements had to be adhered to otherwise you get anarchy - and we have anarchy in Fleet street," he told briefing for industrial journalists.

Twelve newspaper companies are suing the NGA for maximum damages permitted under the Employment Act, 1982, for the union members' unlawful industrial action in halting production of national newspapers on November 25 and 26. Writs have been issued for the £3m joint claim and the case is expected to be heard in the new year.

IRA rifle used in 22 attacks

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Royal Ulster Constabulary disclosed yesterday that an Armalite rifle found at the scene of an SAS ambush on Sunday had been used in 22 IRA shootings.

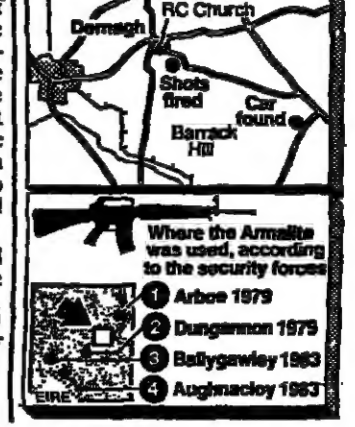
Its next intended target had probably been chosen as two Provisional IRA men, Brian Campbell and Colm McGirr, drove to the hide where they were to collect two guns. But the terrorists were already being observed by an undercover SAS team near Coalisland.

The soldiers had been living rough, waiting to challenge the terrorists. The two men died at the side of the narrow lane after failing to respond to a challenge shouted by the soldiers.

A third man, known to the police, fled along the maze of winding country lanes that criss-cross this republican area of east Tyrone. He abandoned the car three miles away. The vehicle was later put on show by police.

Police were searching yesterday for the missing man, who they believe has either found a safe house, or will attempt to cross the border into the republic to receive hospital treatment.

The Armalite rifle had been used in 22 shooting incidents since 1977, according to the police. Ballistic tests showed that in June, 1979, it was used to kill John Scott, a reserve Constable at Arboe and four months later, was used to murder Frederick Irwin, a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, at Dungannon. This year, it was used to kill two more part-time members of the UDR when terrorists shot Cecil McNeill at Ballygawley in February, and in October, murdered Cyrus Campbell, near his farm at Aughnacloy.



Security advisory council urged

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Government is urged today by the Adam Smith Institute to set up a national security council to advise the Prime Minister and her Cabinet on foreign affairs and to break the monopoly enjoyed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

That would help to avoid blunders like those over the invasion of the Falkland Islands and Grenada, the institute says.

The council should be a separate Whitehall department with access to diplomatic sources and military intelligence and come under the direct control of Downing Street.

foreign policy is part of its Omega Project, under which more than hundred scholars have been examining every kind of government activity for more than a year.

Omega Project Foreign Report (Adam Smith Institute, PO Box 316, London SW1P 3DJ; £5)

'Mandarin politics'

● An idea for top-level civil servants to participate openly in politics has been put to the Whitehall "mandarins" union, the First Division Association (Our Labour Editor writes).

Mr Norman Strauss, until recently a senior figure in the "think tank", suggested to the TUC-affiliated union that it should advise political parties "in the manner of management consultants" and write its own Green Papers on Government policy.

Cash gifts to Tory funds compared with awards Honours selection questioned

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, will display in the Commons today under the 10 minute rule, data unearthed by the Labour Research Department (LRD) which points to what it calls "a remarkable correlation between firm's donations to Tory funds and the award of honours to company directors."

Of 41 directors of private companies awarded peerages or knighthoods by Mrs Margaret Thatcher since 1979, 28 of them, LRD claims, came from companies which have contributed £2,756,366 to the Conservative Party in the past four years, or 34 per cent of donations traced by the department's investigation of 2,000 sets of company accounts.

BARONS					
Name	Company	Date of Peerage	Donations to Party (£)	Total Donations 1979-82 (£)	Total Donations 1979-82 (£)
Sir William Caxson	British and Commonwealth Shipping	Jan 82	95,810	218,581	218,581
Sir Robert McAlpine	McAlpine	Jan 80	33,000	129,000	129,000
Sir John Gollan	Transoceanic	Jan 82	12,000	12,000	12,000
Sir Charles Fort	Transoceanic	Jan 82	17,500	290,500	290,500
Sir Marcus Soff	Marks & Spencer	Jan 80	20,500	80,000	80,000
Sir James Hargest	Hargest	Jan 82	40,000	80,000	80,000
Sir Arnold Weinstock	OCE	June 80	50,000	50,000	50,000
Sir John King	Beitwick International	June 81	7,500	32,500	32,500
			284,310	816,581	816,581

KNIGHTS					
Name	Company	Date of Knighthood	Donations to Party (£)	Total Donations 1979-82 (£)	Total Donations 1979-82 (£)
Keith Showering	Allied-Lyons	June 81	71,300	728,000	728,000
David Harrison	Reid	June 81	30,000	125,000	125,000
David Harrison	NEI	June 81	45,000	112,000	112,000
Austin Bode	Glaxo	Jan 80	25,000	105,000	105,000
William Smith	Wimpey	Jan 81	25,000	102,175	102,175
Richard Smith	Grubbs	Jan 80	30,000	80,000	80,000
Richard & Colson	Richard & Colson	Jan 82	20,000	80,000	80,000
Barry Birt	Barry Birt	Jan 82	25,000	70,700	70,700
Trevor Holdsworth	GKN	Jan 82	11,000	69,250	69,250
Robert Clayton	GEC	Jan 80	50,000	50,000	50,000
Christopher Leadley	Halsbury Industries	Jan 80	0	50,000	50,000
Eric Saxon	Smiths Industries	Jan 80	6,400	26,400	26,400
Owen Alister	Marley	June 81	0	20,000	20,000
David Blackwell	Westland	June 81	15,500	17,500	17,500
James Duncan	Transport Devt Group	Jan 81	4,500	21,000	21,000
Lawrence Barrett	Barrett Devt	Jan 81	0	10,000	10,000
Peter Macdonald	BAT	June 81	2,000	7,000	7,000
Chris Smith	Social Research	June 83	7,000	7,000	7,000
Alan Smith	International	June 82	1,500	6,500	6,500
Joseph Nicholson	Nicholson Group	June 82	0	1,100	1,100
William Shephard	Blackwood Hodge	Jan 83	0	0	0
Eric Wynn	Caledonian Aviation	Jan 80	0	0	0
Maxwell Joseph	Forces Honey	Jan 81	0	0	0
Christopher Leadley	Grubbs	Jan 82	0	0	0
Norman Macfarlane	Macfarlane Group	Jan 82	0	0	0
Renald Owen	Presidential Air	June 80	0	0	0
Alister Frame	RTZ	Jan 80	0	0	0
John Sainsbury	J. Sainsbury	Jan 80	0	0	0
Peter Bence	Shell T & T	Jan 80	0	0	0
Stanford Corfield	STC	Jan 80	0	0	0
Leslie Porter	Tesco	Jan 83	0	0	0
Patrick Mayne	Thomas Tilling	Jan 81	0	0	0
			342,680	1,165,485	1,165,485

1. Now dead. 2. Donations mainly to British United Industrialists. 3. Latest figure available. 4. Also director of United Biscuits, until 1979-82. 5. Also director of Royal Insurance. 6. Donations 1979-82: £120,500. 7. Donations were made by McAlpine before 1979-82. 8. Also a director of Commercial Union, until 1979-82. 9. Also a director of Pirelli, until 1979-82. 10. Also a director of Royal Ordnance, until 1979-82. 11. Also a director of Pirelli, until 1979-82. 12. Also a director of Pirelli, until 1979-82.

Misconduct finding. Dr David Ral, the Harley Street doctor, accused of prescribing drugs for payment other than for bona fide treatment, in London yesterday before being ordered to be removed from the General Medical Council's register for serious professional misconduct.

The council's professional conduct committee had been told that over 18 months he provided prescriptions to more than 340 addicts.

Dr Ral, aged 61, told the committee yesterday he was just an "old-fashioned" doctor who preferred to sum up patients' needs by chatting and looking at them.

He said that patients who died ignored his warning to take tablets by mouth.

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AND TUNSGATE GUILDFORD SURREY

Kasparov moves into winning position

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

The sixth game in the Korchnoi-Kasparov match of the Acorn Computers World Championship semi-finals in London on Sunday was adjourned on the 41st move, with Kasparov seemingly in a winning position.

The game started quietly, with Kasparov playing the Tarrasch defence to the Queen's Gambit.

But instead of increasing the pressure on the Queen's side, Korchnoi played to win a pawn on the other wing.

His young opponent took

WORLD CHESS

Sixth game
White: Korchnoi, Black: Kasparov

1. P4	1. P4	2. P4	2. P4	3. P4	3. P4	4. P4	4. P4	5. P4	5. P4	6. P4	6. P4	7. P4	7. P4	8. P4	8. P4	9. P4	9. P4	10. P4	10. P4	11. P4	11. P4	12. P4	12. P4	13. P4	13. P4	14. P4	14. P4	15. P4	15. P4	16. P4	16. P4	17. P4	17. P4	18. P4	18. P4	19. P4	19. P4	20. P4	20. P4	21. P4	21. P4	22. P4	22. P4	23. P4	23. P4	24. P4	24. P4	25. P4	25. P4	26. P4	26. P4	27. P4	27. P4	28. P4	28. P4	29. P4	29. P4	30. P4	30. P4	31. P4	31. P4	32. P4	32. P4	33. P4	33. P4	34. P4	34. P4	35. P4	35. P4	36. P4	36. P4	37. P4	37. P4	38. P4	38. P4	39. P4	39. P4	40. P4	40. P4	41. P4	41. P4
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Big prices for French furnishings

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Prices soared beyond expectations when Sotheby's offered French eighteenth century furnishings for sale in Monte Carlo on Sunday. It was the kind of furniture one lives with rather than puts in museums. Most of the bidding came from private collectors connected to the sale room by telephone.

A lacquer commode by Weisweiler went to one of them and brought the top price at 3,330,000 French francs (estimated two million francs) or £277,500. It has panels of seventeenth century Japanese lacquer ornamented with vases of flowers while the Neo-Classical ornamental mounts are simple and restrained.

A big Savoy dinner service, including 589 pieces made between 1753 and 1790, painted with sprigs of flowers within blue and gold borders, was bid

Canadians welcome bishop after all

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

A new invitation has been issued to the Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, to visit Canada, thereby ending an embarrassing episode.

The invitation was given in person yesterday by the Primate of Canada, the Most Rev Edward Scott, who is in London on church business. Archbishop Scott wrote earlier to withdraw an invitation to the bishop, leading to speculation that he was persona non grata in Canada because of his opposition to the ordination of women.

Archbishop Scott has now explained that the earlier invitation contravened a rule that bishops from other parts of the Anglican Communion should be invited only in the name of all the Canadian bishops.

A little Christmas decoration from Van Cleef & Arpels

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مكتبة من الأصل

Drivers told to avoid all alcohol in tough Christmas campaign

By Staff Reporters

Drivers are to be advised not to drink any alcohol this Christmas and New Year as part of a tough campaign launched by the Department of Transport yesterday.

Under the theme "Never drive and drink. You are asking to get caught," the department aired for the first time last night two 10-second television commercials highlighting the sufferings of victims of drinking and driving accidents - as well as the stiff penalties imposed on the drivers.

The £860,000 campaign, which will run until January 2, emphasizes that even those passing the new electronic breath-test can be prosecuted if

their driving is found to be impaired by drink.

Mr Lynda Chalker, Minister for Transport, said in a statement launching the campaign: "Just one drink affects your driving ability."

"The penalties for those convicted of drinking and driving were severe, she said: A driving ban for at least a year, a fine of up to £1,000 and the possibility of a prison sentence."

Mrs Chalker announced that the police would be even more active this year on the roads. "They can stop you for the smallest thing, a light not working, for instance. If they smell drink, you'll be asked to take the test."

The Department of Transport says that about 30,000 people are killed or injured each year in accidents in which one person involved is above the legal alcohol limit. Last year, in England and Wales, nearly 73,000 people were convicted of drink-driving offences.

Other figures showed that 36 per cent of drivers of cars and motor cycles killed in crashes were above the legal limit. That rose to 65 per cent for accidents between 10 pm and 4 am.

Accidents attributed to drinking and driving are estimated to cost more than £100m a year.

Mrs Chalker said that the likelihood of being caught drinking and driving will be much greater this Christmas because it will be the first time that the police had new electronic breath-testing devices, Alcolimeter and Intoximeter.

Those have made the processing of offenders quicker so that police patrols can now spend more time on the road.

The national publicity is being supplemented by local police forces, many of which are staging their own campaigns.

Spot-checks by the police will be intensified, particularly during the evening and early morning.

Safety slogans

Staffordshire: "Every breath you take - we'll be watching you."

South Wales: "Remember, a combination of alcohol, blood and petrol can be a deadly cocktail."

Greater Manchester: "Leave the driving to public transport, the drinking man's best friend."

Nottinghamshire: "When I drink I am careless."

Derbyshire: "I am not drinking because I am driving."

Police strategies

The following police forces have announced their Christmas plans:

Cambridgeshire: A play dramatizing the dangers of drinking and driving with tour colleges, clubs, factories and offices.

Derbyshire: 20,000 badges with the slogan "I am not drinking because I am driving" will be issued.

Devon and Cornwall: Fully equipped with portable Alcolimeters and station-based Intoximeters, which it hopes will be a deterrent.

Dorset: All drivers involved in accidents between December 19 and January 2 will be given breath-tests.

Essex: Ford Cortina badly damaged in drink-driving crash will be exhibited in main towns.

Extra patrols.

City of London: Traditional exhibition of posters and breathalysers.

Nottinghamshire: Speedy prosecution of offenders promised.

Leicestershire: Appealing to drivers' common sense.

Northumbria: No special plans.

South Yorkshire: Monitoring accident figures as Christmas approaches, but no special action is planned.

Staffordshire: Launching campaign today, with advertising, posters, and exhibitions.

Surrey: Extra patrols between December 17 and January 1.

West Yorkshire: Radio and television appeals and publicity will be backed up by extra patrols.

Wiltshire: Police putting their trust in increased vigilance and new electronic equipment.

"Now we shall be able to get officers back on to the streets much more quickly, after they bring in an offender."

WALLES

Gwent: Extra patrols and a publicity drive. Displays of breath-testing equipment have been mounted in shopping centres.

South Wales: No breath-test drive, but police have appealed to party-goers to make sure the driver does not drink.



Concert party: Two of the children taking part in the first performance of the Inner London Education Authority's annual Christmas music festival at the Festival Hall, London, yesterday. This year's theme is "It's a Gift" and 12,000 children are expected to attend the performances which continue daily until Thursday. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Broader education urged by report

By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent

Children between the ages of 11 and 16 should receive a broad education balanced between vocational, technical and academic aspects, according to a report published yesterday by the Department of Education and Science.

The report, the result of a five-year inquiry into how the curriculum was changed in Cheshire, Hampshire, Lancashire, Nottinghamshire and Wigan, does not mirror present government policy. It talks about the skills and experiences needed by pupils rather than subjects.

Written by a partnership of the local authorities, schools and a group of school inspectors (HMI's) it says that any curriculum which fails to provide the right balance is to be seriously questioned. "Any measures which restrict the access of all pupils to a wide-ranging curriculum or which focus too narrowly on specific

skills are in direct conflict with the entitlement curriculum envisaged here."

It was made clear yesterday that the 90-page report had no policy implications and was not an HMI document.

The report, which is a result of the great debate on education triggered by Mr James Callaghan when he was Prime Minister, shows the difficulties faced by teachers in trying to change what is taught in schools.

Proposing an "entitlement curriculum" the report says this should include a balanced allocation of time for the eight areas of experience: aesthetic and creative; ethical; mathematical; physical; scientific; social and political; and spiritual. Subjects are not mentioned.

Curriculum 11-16 Towards a Statement of Entitlement (Stationery Office: £3.50).

Dartmoor pledge by the Prince

By Craig Seton

The Prince of Wales, who controls 70,000 acres on Dartmoor, says in a report published today that it should not be preserved "in aspic" merely as a curiosity for future generations nor allowed to be destroyed by rash development.

In a foreword to the Duchy of Cornwall report, the prince, as The Duke of Cornwall, makes clear the difficulties of uniting conflicting interests over the future use of the moor by interested parties, including farmers, Dartmoor people, military, tourists and the conservationists, and says it will not please everybody.

In preparing the report to produce new guidelines on the future use of his land "to ensure its well being as a living community into the twenty-first century", the duke had discussions with more than fifty organizations and individuals during a three year inquiry.

The prince in his foreword, said: "We are living through a

period of rapid change and heavy pressures which can in no time at all spoil much that we value on Dartmoor. To try to ignore that in an ostrich-like fashion would be to fail to accept that there must be change if the community of Dartmoor is to survive and remain viable in the years to come."

The report said that although it would be pleased if at any stage the military were able to withdraw from the 24,000 acres of training land it uses on the moor, the duchy's position remained that so long as the government of the day required that land for military use, it would continue to lease it to them "in the national interest".

Oliver check

Lord Olivier, aged 76, was in a satisfactory condition at St Thomas's Hospital, London, yesterday where he had been admitted for checks.

South-east cable bias criticized

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The geographical bias of the choice of cable television franchises, which appears to be weighed in favour of the Southeast, has been criticized by the consultants CIT Research, advisers to the Government on telecommunications.

Eleven franchises were awarded nearly two weeks ago by the Government from 37 applications. Commenting on the selection, Mr Patrick Whitten, managing director of the research group, said: "With five of the winners in the extended London area, and another within commuting distance of Paddington, a swathe of 70 per cent of English population, including the Southwest, East Anglia East Midlands and the whole of the North and the Northeast has been given only one licence in Merseyside. This will be a big disappointment to the regions involved, particularly as most of the new investment goes to a part of the country that's been spared the worst rigours of the recession."

Scotland has been allocated one in Glasgow (north), but no franchises were awarded to Wales.

Since the announcement of the franchises the Government's selection has been criticized as unimaginative, particularly as the eleven awards include British Telecom, either as a partner or as the cable provider.

£35m for new trains approved

By a Staff Reporter

The Government has approved a British Rail plan to spend £35m on new passenger trains for Southern and Eastern region commuter services.

The trains, equipped for driver-only operation and with sliding doors, will start to come into service in the next year or so.

The trains are similar to those operating on the Bedford-St Pancras-Moorgate service and commuter services out of Waterloo.

Eighty will serve the Royston and Hitchin line from King's Cross and 69 will be used on Southern's central division from Victoria and London Bridge to stations such as Epsom, Sutton and West Croydon.

The trains will be built at British Rail's engineering works in York. The order means that about 2,500 jobs have been safeguarded but 280 jobs will be cut and 900 men will go on short time in the new year until materials for the new contract are delivered.

Damages for breast surgery

Mrs Beverley Rees, aged 32, accepted £3,000 agreed damages yesterday in the High Court after she sued the surgeon who carried out an operation to enlarge her breasts. Dr Michael F. Barrett, director and chairman of the Elstree Nursing Home Ltd, denied that her postoperative treatment was negligent. The court was told that after the operation Mrs Rees, of Ashdown Crescent, Cheshunt, needed further medical attention because of an infection in one breast.

Rare visitor

A rare pied wheatear was seen in Paignton, Devon yesterday, 12,000 miles from its winter home in East Africa. Fewer than twenty have been seen in Britain since records began.



Puppet politicians: Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan as they will appear in the series *Spitting Image*.

Puppet satire for ITV

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

A puppet satire show is to be launched this winter on Independent Television, according to programme schedules announced yesterday.

Central Television is making a series of 13 topical comedy shows to be broadcast at 10pm on Sundays from late February in which world politicians will appear as puppet caricatures.

The puppets are based on the work of Roger Law and Peter Fluck, whose caricatures of politicians with exaggerated features and expressions, have been seen in many colour magazines. Mr John Lloyd, the originator of *Not The Nine O'Clock News*, is to coproduce the show, to be called *Spitting Image*, which will be recorded five days before transmission to make it as topical as possible.

The latex rubber puppets can produce a range of facial expressions and cry. A cast of 80 puppet politicians and

celebrities is being prepared for the show.

The series is one of the few innovations in the independent television schedules, which feature mainly the material which has given the network its recent ratings lead over the BBC.

A notable exception is Granada's 14-part £5m series *The Jewel in the Crown*, the company's largest project since *Brideshead Revisited*. It stars Peggy Ashcroft, Tina Pigeon, Smith, Eric Porter, Judy Parfitt and Geraldine James.

A new series of the popular programme *Minder* will be screened and Yorkshire Television will show six single plays under the general title, *Love and Marriage*.

Central has produced a 12 part series of *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*, in which Pippa Guard plays Edith Holden.

Grocery group launches own cigarette

By Kenneth Gosling

A cigarette price war will begin this week with the introduction of a king-size brand by Spar, the independent grocery group. It will cost 89p for a packet of 20.

The group said yesterday that it hoped sales through its 3,200 outlets would quickly overtake the Victoria Wine's own brand, which sells for 93p.

Spar's managing director, Mr John Irish, said that he expected half the sales of the new cigarettes, which are made in West Germany, would be in packs of 200.

Spar's new sales philosophy will emphasize "impulse lines", confectionery, cigarettes and wines and spirits, or what Mr Irish called "emergency supplies".

"We are swinging our whole business away from being a grocery-based chain, to being a

convenience store chain."

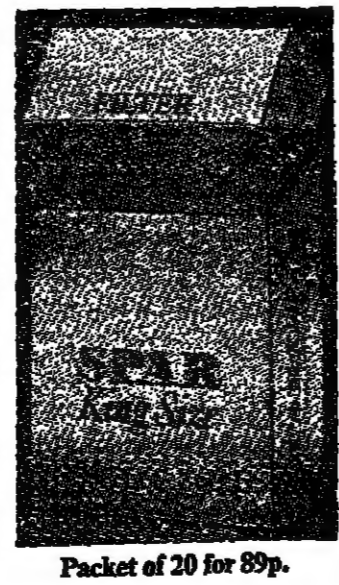
In Scotland Spar's own brand whisky easily outsold Bells and The Famous Grouse combined, Mr Irish said.

He said he was certain that Spar cigarettes would not compete with but help to increase sales of Imperial, Gallaher and Rothmans brands sold by Spar.

"We have been working round the clock to get ours out before Christmas. It now depends on when the lorries hit our wholesalers."

Spar cigarettes are expected to arrive in the South-east and parts of Lancashire this week.

They undercut established fully-priced brands between 22p and 24p. However, price-cutting has brought the cost to 99p for 20, but this has sometimes depended on discounts for bulk purchase.



Packet of 20 for 89p.

Salesmen lose company cars after tax change

By Jonathan Davies, Financial Correspondent

More than one in ten of Britain's salesmen have had to give up their company cars in the past year, according to a survey of pay and perks sponsored by the Institute of Marketing.

The Government's decision to tax the private use of company cars, which came into force last April, has caused dramatic changes in the value of the company car as a perk.

The survey shows that 97 per cent of sales representatives and area and regional managers

had company cars in 1982. This year the figure has fallen to between 82 and 89 per cent, according to Regional Surveys, which compiled the survey for the institute, says it is now more attractive for firms to pay many salesmen particularly those on lower salaries - a mileage rate for using their own cars.

Company cars will retain their status as a management perk, but the new taxes will reduce the very high benefits from company cars to a more

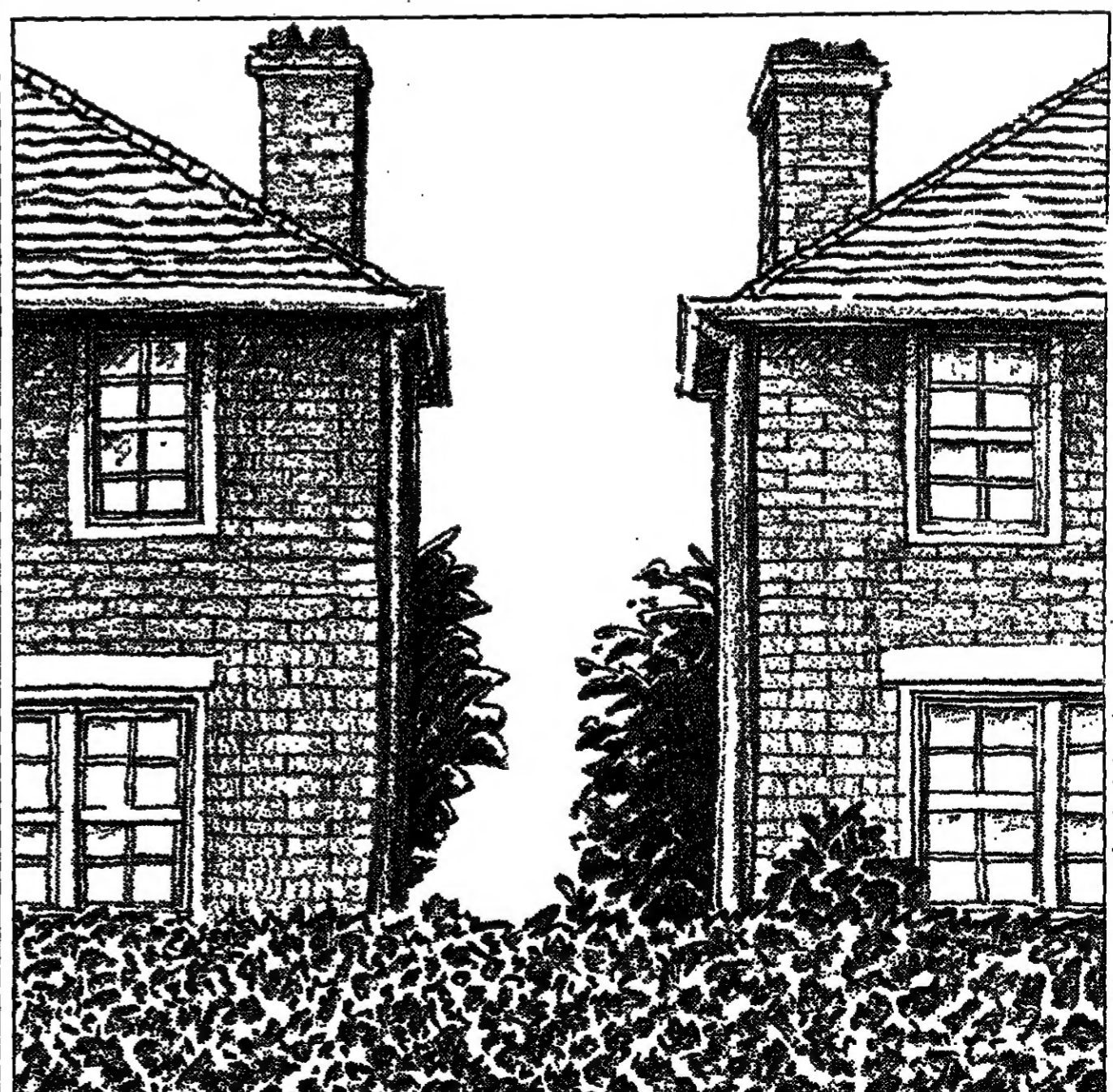
reasonable level, the report says.

The survey also discloses that Vauxhall is overtaking B.L. as the second largest supplier of company cars behind the traditional market leader, Ford.

Vauxhall's share of the company car market in the sales and marketing field has jumped from 7 per cent in 1981 to 23 per cent this year, while B.L. has dropped from 12 to 11 per cent and Ford's share has slipped from 64 to 49 per cent.

Senior executives in sales and marketing have received much higher pay rises than their junior colleagues in the past year, with directors and senior management getting rises of between 12 and 17 per cent, while sales representatives and other junior staff had to settle for 5 to 7 per cent, roughly in line with inflation.

This is one example of the way in which payment by results after the sharp fall in the rate of inflation, the report says.



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICE

PARLIAMENT December 5 1983

MPs urge minister to recall British troops

MIDDLE EAST

MPs on both sides criticized American action in the Lebanon over the weekend and called for the withdrawal of the British contingent in the peace-keeping force.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, resisted demands for their withdrawal immediately. He said in a Commons statement that all parties in the region welcomed the role of the British contingent which had the vital task of guarding the meetings of the ceasefire Commission. The safety of the men was kept under constant review.

It is vital (he added) that all parties in Lebanon should work together to make further progress towards national reconciliation. The cycle of violence must be broken.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Leeds East, Lab), said he agreed that the cycle of violence must be broken, but all parties in Lebanon should work together to make further progress towards national reconciliation.

Will the Government remove British troops forthwith from a position in which they are serving no useful purpose and are at increasing risk?

Will he seek the agreement of the French and Italian governments to withdraw their forces since the new United States Middle East policy, their third year, is totally inconsistent with the policy which the Prime Minister and other European leaders adopted at the summit in Venice not long ago?

Mr Rifkind: The multinational force is there for peace-keeping purposes and the US Government has indicated that the incidents over the past couple of days have been in self-defence under the terms of the mandate agreed when American forces arrived in the Lebanon.

Not only do all communities in

the Lebanon welcome the continuing presence of British forces but so also do all governments in the region.

Mr Healey: The Israeli defence minister, while visiting Washington to make the agreement with the American government, said they had been discussing joint military action against the Syrians. In the light of that statement how can he believe the American claim that there has been no collusion whatever between the US and Israel on this matter?

Mr Rifkind: I have no details of the discussion between Israel and the US. With regard to the particular incidents of the past 48 hours, the Americans found their own forces under attack on Saturday and have emphasized that the response they made was in self-defence in accordance with the mandate between them and the Lebanese government.

Sir Frederic Bennett (Torbay, C): On this occasion concern about the situation in regard to the British force is not limited to one side of the House. Whatever the merits or may not be fulfilling one reading of the newspapers can call it peace-keeping.

Under these circumstances would it not be better to have a second thought about the role of the peace-keeping force? What is the present position of the Italian? The latest news is that they have announced that they are withdrawing their force at the conclusion of the Geneva talks irrespective of the outcome.

Mr Rifkind: We all share his concern. The prime concern of the British Government is the security and well-being of the British force. It is only if and when we come to the conclusion that they can perform no useful role that the question of their withdrawal would become relevant.

Where the other governments making a contribution to the peace-keeping force are concerned, the Foreign Secretary is in Athens at present with the foreign ministers of two other countries concerned and will have an opportunity of discussing these matters with them. There is to be a meeting of the foreign ministers of the British countries on Thursday and there

will be an opportunity then to have a discussion on a slightly wider basis.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP): Would the Government take steps to disassociate itself from the insanity and inhumanity of the Americans at the weekend?

Mr Rifkind: Where the action taken is for reasons of self-defence the Government will have no hesitation in giving its support. If British troops were in danger then self-defence would be the proper response for the British force to take.

Mr Dennis Walters (Westbury, C): Would the Government exercise its influence to prevent the Americans escalating the conflict with Syria and warn them that if there is further escalation we will have to withdraw our small peace-keeping force?

Mr Rifkind: I can give an absolute assurance that the Government considers the proper role for the multinational force is to keep the peace and to use the British force or any other for other purposes would not be in accordance with the original mandate.

Mr Kenneth Westock (Ipwich, Lab): The United States neutrality in the Middle East has suffered as a result of the recent military agreement with Israel and the shelling of Druze positions. It has now become a complete travesty.

Mr Rifkind: The Government's concern is to see peace and the removal of tension from the Lebanon. We believe the multinational force has been instrumental to a substantial degree in reducing tension. The British contingent is making an important contribution.

Sir Anthony Beck (Colchester North, C): There will be deep concern for the safety of the 100 British soldiers in an isolated position. Mr Rifkind: The safety of the British troops is the paramount consideration of the Government and earlier this year steps were taken to increase the security of the British contingent. HMS Fearless is off the Lebanon coast and could be used in support of the British contingent.

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Some tasks of Crown Agents may be hived off

OVERSEAS AID

Hiving off some of the activities of the Crown Agents to one private sector was one of the options being considered by the Government in its current review of the Agents' affairs, Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, said during questions in the Commons.

The loss by the Crown Agents of the investment management of the Government of Brunei's funds has resulted in the Agents' Board of Directors being asked to consider a restructuring of the Agents' affairs.

Mr Raison: The House must be informed of the decision when it is made. Exactly how is something to be considered at the time.

Mr Geoffrey Lawler (Bradford North, C): Would he assure the House that among the options being considered are abolition or hiving off to the private sector many of the activities of the Crown Agents, as part of the minister's review?

Mr Raison: That possibility is being considered.

Mr Stuart Holland, Opposition spokesman on overseas development (Vauxhall, Lab): There is considerable concern about the past record of the Crown Agents and their future.

Mr Raison: The House must be informed of the decision when it is made. Exactly how is something to be considered at the time.

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Crown Agents play in our export business, handling 70,000 orders worth £300m last year? That is a good record which we must do our best to protect.

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British taxpayer to bail them out? Will he make sure they do the job they are supposed to do?

Mr Raison: Of course I am concerned they do the job they are supposed to do. Because things went wrong in the sixties and seventies it does not mean things are happening at present.

Mr Geoffrey Lawler (Bradford North, C): Would he assure the House that among the options being considered are abolition or hiving off to the private sector many of the activities of the Crown Agents, as part of the minister's review?

Mr Raison: That possibility is being considered.

Mr Stuart Holland, Opposition spokesman on overseas development (Vauxhall, Lab): There is considerable concern about the past record of the Crown Agents and their future.

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Powers to control local authorities' spending

SCOTLAND

The Rating Valuation (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill has one simple purpose, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said in the Commons as he moved the Bill's second reading.

The Bill extends the powers available to the Secretary of State to control local authority rates and to provide for a change in the method of allocating rates so that high spending authorities suffer a proportionately higher penalty.

Mr Younger said that in 1983-84 rates were paying about £1,400m to Scottish local authorities. While the rate bill for some households might be relatively small, it was a considerable burden for many domestic ratepayers. And it was a heavy burden on business and commerce who paid over half of the rates of Scotland.

He had made abundantly clear to local authorities in 1979 and in every subsequent year that there had to be a reduction in expenditure but so far that had not happened.

Growth might have been checked but local authorities were still budgeting to spend more in real terms than in 1979-80.

He had no doubt that the selective action powers he had had to employ three years running had fully justified themselves in operation.

The main valuation provisions had two principal objectives: to improve the structure of the valuation appeal system so that, following future revaluations, any inequalities might be settled much sooner.

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Courts 'too lenient with rapists'

CRIME

When Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury, C) said in the Commons that average sentences for rape were of less than three years, which showed that the judiciary was unduly lenient with that crime, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, said that the law reflected the abhorrence felt for the crime in this country.

The law reflects that the sentence of life imprisonment is unduly lenient with this dreadful crime.

Mr McNair-Wilson said: In England and Wales last year a record number of rape cases were reported to the police but the average sentence given to rapists was less than three years. That last figure suggests that the judiciary is unduly lenient with this dreadful crime.

Sir Patrick Mayhew: I have not carried out that particular piece of research but I share his general abhorrence of the offence of rape. The law reflects that in making the maximum sentence life imprisonment.

The Court of Appeal and the Lord Chief Justice in particular have said that save in the most exceptional cases, the proper penalty is an immediate prison sentence. The power to sentence to life imprisonment is not neglected by the courts in practice.

Mr Denis Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab): The Solicitor General is not concerned about the decision of Judge Michael Argyle last week, who imposed an 18 months suspended sentence on a rapist? What can we do about it?

What legislation can we introduce, what initiatives can we take to prevent judges taking stupid decisions like that? (Cheers)

Sir Patrick Mayhew: The only comment I would make on that case is that the report I read was limited to that in the Daily Express which made clear that it was attempted rape and indeed a sentence of 18 months suspended was imposed, but each case depends on its facts and it is very seldom possible for a newspaper, given the restrictions of space, to do full justice to all the varieties of fact involved.

Greenham Common
Mr Roland Boyes (Houghton and Washington, Lab) unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate in the Commons on the success of the Greenham Common women at the weekend in penetrating the cruise missile base.

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Seat belts bring drop in deaths

TRANSPORT

In the first five months of the compulsory wearing of seat belts, deaths and serious injuries to front seat occupants of cars and light vans were down 20 per cent on the same period last year, Mrs Lynne Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, said during Commons questions.

I would not expect the first full assessment of the legislation (she added) before the end of next year. Mr Jeremy Hayes (Harlow, C): That is encouraging. Will she try to make an early statement on the full effect of this legislation and issue guidelines for the use of seat restraints for young children?

Mrs Chalker: The figures are encouraging. I hope they will get even better.

To get a full report when the regulations are debated in about two years' time, we must have a thorough monitoring exercise. I shall report quarterly on that exercise.

Good guidance on keeping children safe in cars is given in the leaflet *Child Safety in Cars* which has been available all this year. Mr Stephen Ross (Tale of Wight, L): It is time to extend the legislation to coach and lorry drivers.

Mrs Chalker: I am sure that the Government will be fully committed to the principle of equal pay for men and women and was firmly against sex discrimination, including that which affected jobs and pay.

It was committed to the implementation of the European equal pay directive. Although he still believed the Act did comply, the European Court found otherwise so the Government accepted the need to amend the Act to close the gap the court found between it and the European directive.

The regulations provide that women who cannot make a claim under the existing Act may make claims to industrial tribunals that their work is of equal value. Lord McCarthy (Lab), for the Opposition, moved an amendment

Mrs Chalker said she had seen some lorry drivers and even some coach drivers and front seat passengers wearing seat belts. She was looking into the strength of seats in coaches, which must be improved in respect of other coach passengers in accidents.

I will (she said) examine these things in my review.

Dr Brian Mawhinney (Peterborough, C): When does she expect to introduce legislation requiring seat belts to be worn in the rear seats of cars?

Support for EEC levy as farm spending soars to £5m an hour

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

If all the increased milk production in the EEC since 1981 were to be put in bulk tankers, they would stretch in an unbroken line all the way from London to Athens and back again, and there would still be some left over.

That graphic illustration of the scale of the Community's surpluses was given yesterday by Mr Alan Wilkinson, deputy to Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the Community's Budget Commissioner, at a seminar at the Royal Smithfield Show. Present spending on the common agricultural policy was running at £5m an hour, he said.

Mr Wilkinson made clear that there could be no question of a supplementary budget next year, as happened this year. Farmers had to recognize that if no agreement was reached on placing a ceiling on expenditure, the CAP would run out of funds and they would not be paid.

Mr Michael Jopling, British Minister of Agriculture, delivered a similar message at a press conference. In the past there have been only two countries, by which he clearly meant Britain and West Germany, which had hesitated before agreeing to more expensive new schemes.

"But now I find a growing consciousness that we cannot go on this way," he said. "There is, I think, agreement that something has to be done and that we face difficult times in the future."

Farmers understand that they do not have a God-given right to produce more and more food which we can neither eat at home nor sell abroad and that the time has come to return the CAP to rationality and reality.

There were about 900,000 tonnes of butter and more than 1,000,000 tonnes of skimmed milk powder in intervention storage. The British Government had long favoured price reductions as the best way of increasing consumer demands, but, given that the best it could hope for was a price freeze, it had to start thinking in terms of a super levy on excess production.

It was important that there should be none of the exemptions which had made the co-responsibility levy so unsatisfactory. The Irish Republic was almost certain to try to veto the super levy proposal, but "I am anxious that the agonies should be felt equally by all members of the Community", Mr Jopling said.

Mrs Marion Cooper, of the Consumers Association, told the seminar that the way EEC handled its finances was not only complicated but also unfair, illogical and almost impossible to control. The money spent would keep open many hospital beds and would pay the salaries of many doctors.

Mr Simon Gourlay, vice-president of the National Farmers' Union, said that although the budgetary cost of the CAP was substantial, it was equivalent to only about one half per cent of the Community's gross domestic product.

British farmers and growers have made a significant but sadly undervalued contribution to the British economy and must be more forceful in publicizing their achievements, Sir Richard Butler, president of the farmers' union, told the conference (The Press Association reports).

"Farmers, by their increased efficiency, have played an important part in the battle against inflation, and consumers can purchase a greater variety of high quality food than ever before at prices that are falling in real terms", he said.

In the five years up to 1982, food prices rose at an average rate of 3.2 per cent a year less than the retail price index.

"Agriculture is a major employer. On its continued success hinges the jobs of the 9 per cent of the employed labour force which depend directly or indirectly on British agriculture, for their employment", he said.



£100,000 damages for gas victim's family

The family of a senior army officer who was killed by carbon monoxide gas from a damaged gas central heating system were awarded £100,000 agreed damages at the High Court in London yesterday.

Lieutenant-Colonel Basil Beattie, aged 48, of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, died in December, 1976, while staying at a fellow officer's flat in Highgate, north London. Mr Justice Stuart-Smith was told the judge that the British Gas Corporation, which had covered the central heating system with its "two star" maintenance plan, had agreed to pay the damages.

Mr Cole said that Colonel Beattie went to the flat suffering from influenza. He closed the windows, turned the heating to constant setting and went to bed. What he did not know was that a leak in the flue from the gas boiler was causing the hot-air system's fan to blow a mixture of warm air and boiler exhaust into the rooms.

The camels - Millie, Molly and Andy - were in a consignment of 274 animals and birds flown from Heathrow yesterday to a new zoo in Doha in the Persian Gulf. They had been supplied by Whipsnade, London, Bristol and Marwell 2005.

Why send camels to Doha? A spokesman at Whipsnade explained: "The camels are young and were bred in captivity, so they will be used to life in a zoo." (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Coals to Newcastle: Three camels being sent from Britain to a new home... in the desert.

MI5 officer sent for trial on spy charges

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Michael Bettaney, a middle-ranking officer in MI5, was committed for trial yesterday on espionage charges including passing on assessments of Soviet intelligence networks in Britain and details of the expulsion of three Russians.

Mr Bettaney, aged 33, of Victoria Road, Coulsdon, Surrey, was sent for trial at the Central Criminal Court after a brief hearing at Horseferry Road Magistrate's Court, London. He faces six charges under the Official Secrets Acts of 1911 and 1920.

He is charged with passing on information about the expulsion of three Russians on April 3 this year. On the same day he is also accused of acting preparatory to passing on "precise arrangements" about the communication of classified matter.

On June 12 Mr Bettaney is accused of passing on an official assessment of Soviet intelligence services operating in the United Kingdom and a second count of acting preparatory to passing on arrangements for communicating classified information.

On July 10 he is accused of acting preparatory to passing on information by pressing for a response to his proposals of April 3 and June 12. Under the sixth charge he is alleged between December 31 and September 17 to have collected information calculated to be useful to an enemy.

Mr Lawrence Grant, for Mr Bettaney, was granted an extension of legal aid for the trial which is expected next year.

Before the court rose the magistrate, Mr Kenneth Harington, told the press: "Please be careful about publishing anything which might prejudice the conduct of the trial."

Queen's cousin burgled

The Queen's first cousin, Mr Gerald Lascelles, was counting the cost yesterday of a break-in at his Cotswolds home in which antiques, bedrooms and family silver, thought to be worth at least £25,000 were stolen.

Mr Lascelles, aged 59, the son of the Earl of Harewood, had been away from his home, Clifden House, Rendcombe, near Cheltenham, with his wife, Elizabeth, spending the week-end with relatives in Yorkshire.

"The thieves seemed to know exactly what was what and where it was", Mr Lascelles said. "They took only the better pieces and they knew where the strongroom was located, and burrowed through a floor to get into it."

Police think a well organized gang using a large vehicle to remove tables, chairs and more than fifty other items must have been responsible.

SBS expert given marines command

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

New promotions will affect the Royal Marines' highest echelons during the next few months.

Lieutenant General Sir Stuart Pringle, the victim of an IRA bomb in October, 1981, retires in April as Commandant General, to be succeeded by the present Major General Royal Marines Commando Forces, Michael Wilkins, who will be promoted to Lieutenant-General.

He will be succeeded next February by Colonel John St John Grey, aged 49, the Royal Marines' colonel who is now responsible for operations and plans in the Ministry of Defence.

Colonel Grey will take the rank of Major-General, but that does not mean he skips the rank of Brigadier. Unlike the army, in the Royal Marines a brigadier is not a formal rank, but is more a courtesy title attached to certain appointments.

General Wilkins, a tall, lean man, spent several years in the late 1950s in the Special Boat Section, which is a Royal Marine equivalent of the Army's Special Air Service Regiment. He is thought to be the first SBS man to achieve the marine's top appointment.

Much of his early experience was in the Far East. It was not until his middle forties that he became directly involved in what has become the Marines' main speciality, Arctic warfare.

At the time of the attack on Sir Stuart all three held appointments in the Ministry of Defence: Sir Stuart as Commandant General, General Wilkins as Chief of Staff, and Colonel Grey as Military Secretary, in which role he had special responsibility for promotions and appointments.

While Sir Stuart was in hospital the three used to meet occasionally by his bedside to discuss appointments and proposals.

One of their main preoccupations during the next few months is likely to be attempts to remedy deficiencies in 3 Commando Brigade's supporting arms, revealed during the Falklands conflict.

Although their "yomp" across east Falkland enormously enhanced the marines' reputation, it also showed that they did not possess enough air defence systems, adequate artillery, engineering and reconnaissance support. Those had to be supplied from outside 3 Commando Brigade.

The Ministry of Defence is believed to be considering providing or improving those supporting arms as an integral part of the brigade.

If a major war in Europe seemed in prospect 3 Commando Brigade would be one of the first British units to respond, with the bulk being shipped to Norway.

In those circumstances there would probably not be time to augment it and achieve a full integration with either territorial or regular army units.

It can, therefore, be argued that the brigade should be enhanced so that it incorporates all the support needed to function autonomously.

That would imply the provision of a battery of Rapier ground-to-air missiles; light armoured reconnaissance vehicles and heavier artillery to augment the existing light field guns, and perhaps a second regular squadron of engineers.



Major-General Michael Wilkins (left); Colonel John St John Grey and Commandant General Sir Stuart Pringle.

Picking up a penguin costs £700

David Worsley had to pay £700 yesterday for picking up a penguin after a night's drinking.

Worsley, aged 20, a butcher, went for an early morning stroll to sober up, magistrates at Southport, Lancashire, were told.

Mr Michael Wilding, for the prosecution, said that Worsley climbed the Southport fairground big dipper, but fell and landed in the zoo alongside the penguin compound.

Worsley said in a statement that he scooped up Percy the Penguin and put him in a wire mesh litter bin.

He said: "I went back to the car with the penguin in the bin and put him in my mate's boot."

Worsley said they drove home but the next day he and his father went to Southport sea front and left the penguin in a plastic bucket tipped on its side. However, the penguin, a rare Humboldt, disappeared.

Worsley, of Meadowcroft Farm, Walslow, Bury, was fined £100 and ordered to pay £600 for Percy's replacement.

Warning on 'house for sale' attacks

A judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday gave a warning to women with houses for sale never to allow unknown men into their homes.

Judge Peck jailed Richard Blake, aged 20, a soldier, for a total of eight years for indecent assault and other offences committed after he was allowed into houses as a prospective buyer.

The judge said: "I hope no married couple, where the lady is alone seeking to sell a house will ever invite a lone man in to look around. The dangers are apparent."

Blake, a REME corporal, of Lucia Park, Bordon, Hampshire, had admitted indecent assault, robbery, burglary and assault with intent to rob.

The court was told that Blake was allowed into homes at Shepperton, London, and Ash Vale, Surrey, as a prospective buyer. He broke into a third house in Grayswood, Surrey. In each case he assaulted the woman of the house, having made sure her husband would be out.

THE NEW LONG WHEELBASE FORD TRANSITS, NOW AT LOWER PRICES.

New Ford Transit long wheelbase prices are down - all of them. Vans and chassis cabs. From a nominal payload of 1,000 kg to the top-of-the-range 1,900 kg.

And not by a few pounds. By as much as £273. Prices now start at just £5,052* - yet the Transit LWB has never offered you more.

Under the bonnet, maintenance-free batteries and microwave-timed breakerless ignition combine to cut operating costs.

The cab is more carlike and comfortable than ever. Steering effort is reduced by 20%, and the overdrive option gives relaxed economy at speed.

While outside, new more aerodynamic styling further reduces fuel bills, cutting drag to saloon car levels.

The loadspace, though, could hardly be improved: up to 16.24 cu metres is available if you put a Luton body on our chassis cab.

You can save hundreds, thousands on a fleet, so see your dealer. It all goes to show that Britain can still give you more, for less.

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*Price quoted is maximum retail price including VAT, number plates and delivery of a standard 100 LWB chassis cab. Effective saving is on Transit 15-seater Custom Bus model and is a comparison with the price at 15th August, 1983, of a similarly equipped vehicle. Payloads quoted are nominal. For full details see October 1983 Ford Transit brochure ref. PB 601.

Andropov back in business after illness, Kremlin says

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov is "recovering from an illness" but carrying out a full range of party and state functions, according to a senior Soviet official.

Mr Leonid Zamyatin did not say when Mr Andropov would return to public view. He has not been seen since the middle of August and did not appear on Red Square for the annual November 7 parade.

Mr Zamyatin, the head of the Central Committee international information department, yesterday referred to a Kremlin statement in October which said Mr Andropov was suffering from a cold.

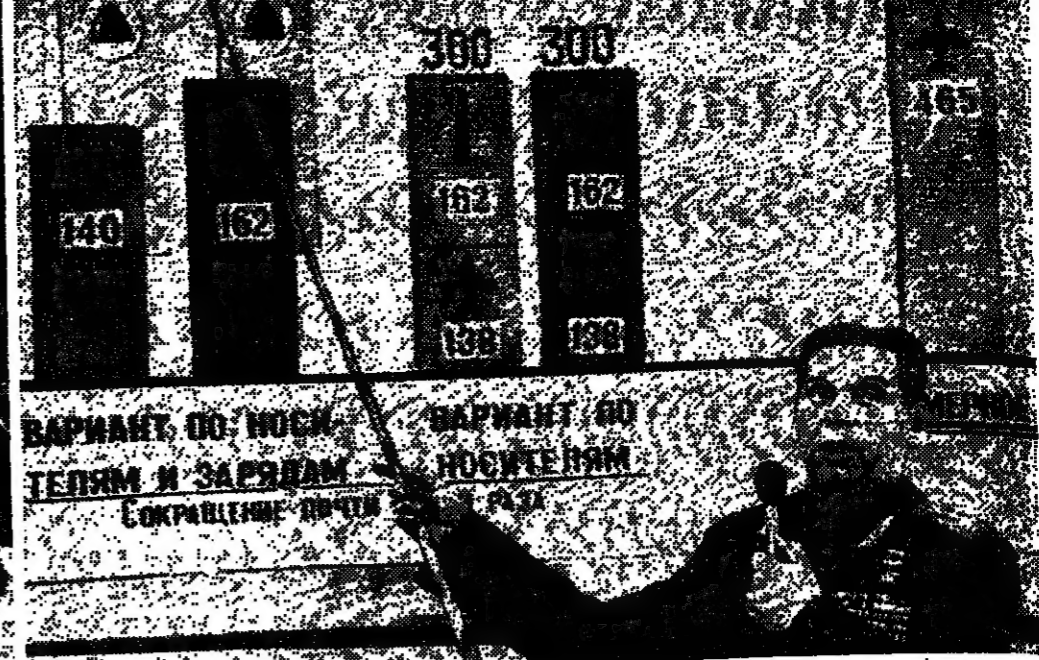
Asked if he was suggesting that the Soviet leader had been absent for 110 days because of a cold, Mr Zamyatin became angry and said reports of a serious operation were "insinuations which do not correspond to reality".

He added enigmatically: "I have already said all that it is possible to state officially" - taken by some observers to mean that Mr Andropov's illness had been more serious than admitted.

Mr Zamyatin did not say whether Mr Andropov would take the chair at forthcoming sessions of the Central Committee and Supreme Soviet, Russia's "parliament". Reports from Bonn over the weekend said West German government officials had been told that Mr Andropov would re-emerge next Saturday.



Top brass: General Bernard Rogers, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe (left) Sir William Staveley, Commander-in-Chief Channel and Eastern Atlantic, for a meeting of the Soviet General Staff, comparing Soviet and United States arms reduction proposals at a press conference in Moscow.



Joining Admiral Wesley McDonald, Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, and Admiral Nato commanders in Brussels yesterday and (right) Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, Chief of the Soviet General Staff, comparing Soviet and United States arms reduction proposals at a press conference in Moscow.

East-West talks high on Shultz agenda

From Mohsin Ali Washington

Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, will discuss with Nato foreign ministers in Brussels this week whether an East-West conference on European disarmament in Stockholm on January 17 should begin at Foreign Minister level.

Such an opening could provide Mr Shultz with an opportunity to renew his bilateral dialogue with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister. Mr Shultz, however, not said whether he will hold such talks nor whether he will attend.

He leaves here today on a week-long tour of West Germany, Belgium, Tunisia, Morocco and Portugal for talks with their leaders on East-West relations, arms control issues and Lebanon and North Africa.

Any meeting between Mr Shultz and Mr Gromyko would be the first since last month's Soviet walkout at the Geneva intermediate range nuclear forces (INF) negotiations.

The two had a frosty exchange at their last meeting in Madrid during the European security conference in September after the Soviet shooting down of the South Korean airliner.

Warsaw Pact meets in Sofia

Belgrade (Reuters) - Warsaw Pact defence ministers gathered in Sofia yesterday for their first joint assessment of the deployment of new US nuclear missiles in West Europe and last month's suspension of the Geneva medium-range missile talks.

The meeting was called amid growing East-West tension caused by the arms build-up in Europe and escalation of the fighting in Lebanon, where US aircraft have attacked positions held by Soviet-backed Syrian troops.

The official Bulgarian news agency, BTA, reported the arrival of ministers from Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania, to join the Soviet Defence Minister, Marshal Dmitry Ustinov who flew in on Sunday.

All were met by the Bulgarian Defence Minister, General Dobri Dzhurov. The Commander-in-Chief of Warsaw Pact forces, Marshal Viktor Kulikov, is also attending.

BTA gave no further details of the meeting but Western diplomats in Sofia believed it would continue today after starting yesterday.

The Eastern block has condemned the siting of US cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Western Europe, which began in Britain and West Germany last month, and President Andropov has announced countermeasures.

These include speeding up the deployment of new-generation Soviet medium-range missiles in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, abandoning a self-imposed freeze on SS20 missiles targeted on Western Europe, and deploying sea-launched missiles close to US territory.

Western diplomats said the Sofia meeting could bring a rethink of tactics at two East-West arms forums still in process - the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Start) in Geneva between the US and the

Soviet Union and the Vienna conference on reducing conventional forces in Central Europe.

The Vienna talks, the only forum where all Nato and Warsaw Pact states are represented, have dragged on with minimal progress for 10 years. East block diplomats there have said the new US deployments must have an effect on the talks.

Leaders have also spoken of a need for greater coordination within the East block.

Romania, which has often taken a different foreign policy stand to its allies, has openly stated its opposition to new missiles by either side and urged a return to the negotiating table.

Hungary's official line is that there should be no nuclear missiles in countries that do not already have them - like Hungary itself - and no extra deployments in those that do.

The Czechoslovak party daily, Rude Pravo, acknowledged many people were anxious about the deployment.

West sends arms dialogue signal

Brussels (Reuters) - Defence ministers of 11 West European countries yesterday opened the first round of Nato ministerial meetings since the new American medium range nuclear missiles arrived in West Europe.

Prospects for improving East-West relations in spite of the Soviet walkout from the medium range superpower missile talks in Geneva were expected to top the agenda.

The West Europeans want the meetings to send a clear signal to Moscow that the West remains ready for dialogue on arms control and broader East-West cooperation while maintaining a strong defence.

The "Eurogroup" session, covering all European members of the Alliance except France, Spain and Iceland, began after Nato military chiefs heard an intelligence report on the transfer of Western high tech-

nology to the Soviet bloc. President Andropov said last month that the new missiles would be sited in East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Military sources said the European ministers would consider the idea of merging the interrupted Geneva talks on medium range missiles with the US-Soviet talks on strategic arms as a way of getting Moscow back to the negotiating table.

Bokassa asks France for residence permit

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Jean-Bedel Bokassa, the former President of the Central African Republic, who arrived unexpectedly in Paris on Sunday night with 15 of his 54 children, his wife, and 20 other women, has asked the French Government for permission to live permanently in France. He already owns substantial property here, including several chateaux.

However, France is not at all keen to harbour such an unpredictable and troublesome guest who only a week ago was plotting to return to power in his native country, where he was deposed as Emperor four years ago with French help in the famous "Barracuda Operation", after a series of increasingly appalling atrocities.

M Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, said in a radio interview yesterday morning that it was not desirable that M Bokassa should remain in France, and that the Government was therefore looking for other countries which would be willing to receive him.

M Bokassa, who has served in the French Army, has always claimed to have French citizenship. However, M Cheysson insisted yesterday that the French courts did not accept that claim. "He is a foreigner who can therefore be asked to leave France," he said.

Immediately after his overthrow in 1979, M Bokassa sought refuge in France, but was refused permission to stay on account of his "serious repeated violations of human rights". He went instead to the Ivory Coast, where President Houphouët-Boigny agreed to receive him after a personal request from President Giscard d'Estaing.

The final straw was the revelation last week of plans for a coup d'etat. A Caravelle aircraft actually took off from Paris on November 26 with the organizer of the coup, M Roger Delpey, a French writer and long-time friend and confidant of M Bokassa, a dozen mercenaries, and several journalists. It was due to pick up M Bokassa in Abidjan before flying on to the Central African Republic, where M Bokassa was due to be reinstated as Emperor. However, the French intelligence services warned President Houphouët-Boigny of the aircraft's imminent arrival, and it was intercepted.

M Bokassa, who is at present staying at his chateau on the south-west outskirts of Paris, said in a statement issued through his lawyer that he would refuse all offers of asylum in any country save France or the Central African Republic.

South Africans capture white army defector

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

A South African Army officer who defected to Mozambique seven months ago seeking political asylum has been arrested in South Africa after flying back apparently to try to see his wife and baby daughter.

Lieutenant Gerald Eckert, aged 24, of the Army Medical Service, was arrested by military police at Jan Smuts airport, near Johannesburg, on Sunday night as he tried to slip back into the country unnoticed to see his estranged wife, Veronica, and their daughter who will be a year old this month.

A military spokesman said

yesterday he would be charged with desertion.

Lieutenant Eckert, who was born in Germany, crossed the border into Mozambique last May five days after South African jets raided Maputo, the capital, in reprisal for the African National Congress car bomb attack on Air Force headquarters in Pretoria which killed 20 people.

As a male nurse in a Pretoria military hospital he had no access to any secrets but he said in Maputo that as a privileged white in South Africa he could not live with his conscience.

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Baby Jane Doe case ensnares parents, courts and Reagan

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Baby Jane Doe lies in her hospital cot, around her rages a fierce controversy. Her parents, doctors, the court and the Reagan Administration are caught up in the question of who should decide whether she lives or dies.

Baby Jane - her name is pseudonym and her identity a secret - was born eight weeks ago with several severe defects. She has an abnormally small head and brain, excess fluid on the brain and spina bifida and an incompletely formed spine.

Doctors at the hospital in Long Island, New York, told her parents that without surgery she would die within two years. If she has a series of operations she could live for 20 years but would be completely disabled and severely retarded.

After consulting doctors and clergy, her parents said there should be no surgery. But their decision came to the attention of a right-to-life group called Birthright who alerted a lawyer. He obtained a court order instructing doctors to operate, but Baby Jane's parents appealed and the order was overturned.

Then the Reagan Administration became involved in an unprecedented way. It said that failure to operate violated Baby Jane's civil rights and demanded to see the hospital records of her case. The hospital refused to hand them over and the Government sued the hospital.

The judge rejected the Government's application to see the records. He said the hospital could have performed

surgery but the question turned on parental consent. And the parents, he said, had made a reasonable decision "based on genuine concern for the best interest of the child."

The Government appealed and the case is now being considered by three judges in New York. The Government's attempt to intervene in a private dilemma has helped to stoke the controversy. The Administration is being criticized for high-handedness.

Last year, after the case of a baby with Down's Syndrome who died after its parents said they did not want it treated, the Administration ordered new rules for hospital nurseries and maternity wards.

The rules called for notices to be posted in nurseries saying that failure to feed or care for handicapped babies was illegal. Telephone "hotlines" were set up so that any failures to do so could be reported to Washington. A court later struck down the new rules.

The case of Baby Jane Doe has raised many disturbing questions. Right-to-life groups see it as an important test case. Other people are concerned about the Government's interference in complex moral and medical questions.

And argument goes on about what should be done with very seriously handicapped children whose lives would be distressingly blighted if they were allowed to survive despite their parents deciding that they should not be treated.



King and country: King Juan Carlos of Spain addressing the lower House of Parliament yesterday to mark the fifth anniversary of the return of democracy.

Devastating guerrilla warfare

Rebels without a cause prove to be experts at disruption

In a second article on Mozambique, Stephen Taylor, recently in Maputo, describes the character of the guerrilla war that is undermining the country.

After years of sporadic guerrilla warfare, Mozambican insurgents four weeks ago introduced a dangerous element in their conflict against the Frelimo Government, swooping on a camp in the northern Zambezia province where they killed two Soviet mining technicians and abducted another 23.

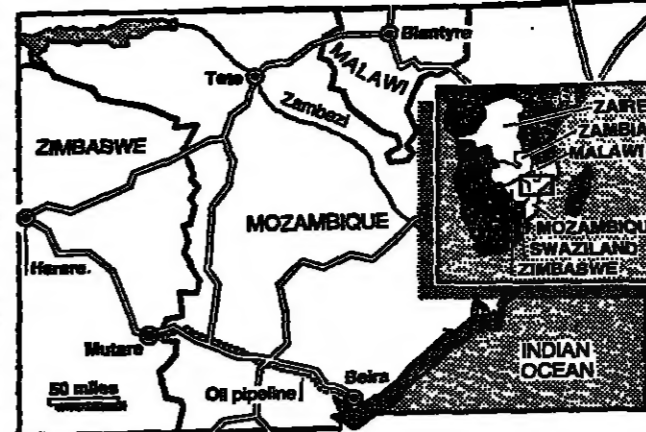
Elsewhere the incident would have made world headlines. As it is, although 18 of the Russians remain captives of the Mozambican Resistance Movement (MNR) the Zambezia raid has become just another fading chapter in the murky war which is devastating Mozambique.

The conflict has little to do with territory or even ideology. MNR guerrillas, numbering between 8,000 and 10,000, are active in all but one of the 10 provinces but have no territorial stronghold. They inflict brutal suffering on Frelimo supporters but espouse no political credo.

"The voice of free Africa", the MNR propaganda radio station broadcasting from South Africa, serves up an uninspired litany of anti-Frelimo invective.

What the resistance movement is good at is disruption. Railways, road traffic, storage depots and the oil pipeline to Zimbabwe have been struck repeatedly to the dismay not only of Frelimo but governments in neighbouring states. Mozambique's ports are vital to Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia and Swaziland - all of which are members of the Southern African Development Conference - and Zaire, which is not.

Such circumstantial evidence that the MNR is being manipu-



lated as a tool of regional destabilization by South Africa is substantiated by more solid intelligence, such as the assassination of Orlando Cristina, a key figure in the movement, in Pretoria earlier this year. The killing is generally believed to have been the result of an internal feud.

The only other figures in the MNR whose names are generally known are Alfonso Dhlakama, the military commander, said by the Mozambicans to have been a Frelimo soldier until he was discharged for theft.

MOZAMBIQUE Part 2

In 1976, and Senhor Evo Fernandes, the MNR spokesman in Lisbon.

A primary target has been the Lourenço-controlled pipeline from Beira port to Zimbabwe, closed for 15 years after the imposition of sanctions on Rhodesia in 1965. After months of rehabilitation work, it was sabotaged only days before its scheduled reopening in October 1981, and remained closed until June last year. Since then it has been sabotaged at least four times.

Zimbabwe's desperation to have the pipeline functioning, thus avoiding dependence on oil imports through South Africa, prompted the Government to send 2,000 troops to help Frelimo forces guard the installation last December. Almost immediately petrol storage tanks in Beira were sabotaged, precipitating a fuel crisis in Zimbabwe.

Another favoured target, and one which has had far greater impact on the majority of Mozambicans, is the state shops in rural areas, about half of which have been destroyed. Mr Manuel Aranda da Silva, Minister of Internal Trade, says priority is being given to reestablishing the shops with

financial incentives being offered to those prepared to rebuild them.

Sometimes the guerrillas have distributed food looted from shops to local people but by and large they have shown little sensibility to winning hearts and minds. Peasants suspected of being Frelimo sympathizers are sometimes shot out of hand - or may have ears, lips or breasts cut off.

The scale of the war is difficult to calculate because of the rebels' hit-and-run tactics and the tendency of the Frelimo forces to avoid confrontation. Casualties are comparatively low - some reports put the figure at around 2,000 - although the effect of the conflict in drought-afflicted areas is causing thousands more to die of malnutrition. A senior government economist has estimated the cost of the war to be £130m.

A Frelimo offensive in Gaza and Inhambane provinces has had some success in driving the guerrillas underground. Other positive aspects are that the key regional trade routes from east Zimbabwe to Beira port have been made reasonably safe and haulage companies are once again using the road through Tete to Malawi.

Generally, however, the inadequacies of the Frelimo forces have been glaringly exposed and the Government is now turning from the Soviet Union to the West for military assistance as well as investment.

Following President Machel's visit to Downing Street, it has been suggested that the British military advisory and training team in Zimbabwe might take on responsibility for training Mozambican units. More likely though, a number of places will be made available for Mozambicans at Sandhurst.

Though such assistance is unlikely to have much military significance, Frelimo would see it as an important gesture in the face of South African hostility.

Prisoners of conscience



Soviet Union: Anatoli Marchenko

By Caroline Moorehead

Mr Anatoli Marchenko, the author of a celebrated book on Soviet labour camps, is serving his sixth sentence, for "anti-Soviet agitation", in Camp No 35 at Perm. If he serves his full term it will be March 1991, before he is free. He is married and has a son, aged 10.

Mr Marchenko, aged 46, was born in Barabinsk, Siberia, the son of an assistant machinist on the railways.

He was 19 and working in Karaganda, when he was first arrested and convicted after a riot. His experiences in the camps were to provide him with material for his later political writings.

Not long after his release, he tried to leave the Soviet Union without an exit permit. He was sentenced to six years' hard labour for "treason against the fatherland".

Now began a pattern of political writings, open letters and articles would be circulated in samizdat. Most were indictments of the living conditions of workers, of the camps and prisons and of widespread abuse of human rights. The writings would be followed by arrest, a prison sentence, or banishment. Mr Marchenko's present sentence, 10 years' reeducation through hard labour, followed by five years' loss of civil rights, is the most severe he has received.

His health has been poor since the 1960s, when he became deaf while in "special regime" in Vladimir prison, after an ear infection remained untreated.

He is now believed to be suffering from chronic gastritis, arthritis and failing sight, all aggravated by appalling diet, harsh prison conditions and several hunger strikes.

Leading article, page 15



Mr Marchenko: Wrote about labour camps.

(ADVERTISEMENT)

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The facts on the economy present only part of the picture. Many aspects of South African life have changed - and are changing at an ever-increasing rate. The future is exciting because we have the people, the dedication and a buoyant economy to enable us to keep on providing opportunities and improving the quality of life of all our people.

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SPECTRUM

Young Blood

Student designers are showing off their newest work at The Barbican Centre.

Robin Young finds metal hoppers, meat slicers, motor-cycles and many other inventions for the manufacturer to give them breath

The cult of nil design

The Barbican Centre is a dog's dinner of design defects, so its Art Gallery is just the place for an exhibition to show that Britain has bright designers and bright design ideas - and people in positions of responsibility who have no idea how to put them to use.

The Young Blood exhibition parades 2,500 examples of work from Britain's colleges of art and design. It is the first time their work has been shown in the same place at the same time. It is a big, some might say desperate, bid for recognition.

We live in a badly designed environment. The Young Blood exhibition is interspersed with photographs of our tatty street corners, with commentaries on the "design decisions" that made them.

We live in a country where distaste for style is raised to a cult. The best of British style is the wearing of dead men's clothes. We think quality is what

Despite all, the range and quality of Britain's design education continues to excite admiration in countries abroad.

About a third of Britain's top design graduates end up working for our foreign competitors. The sewing machine with which the Japanese swept the world was designed by a Briton. Olivetti UK scouts for British talent to join those already at their studios in Milan. A Briton is senior designer with Valentino.

The statistics suggest that employment opportunities for the graduates of Britain's design courses are at an all time low, with a quarter failing to find jobs and almost as many drifting into self-employment that may secure them little more than the dole. But opportunities exist abroad. As the British textile and fashion industries decline, colleges have developed strong links in Italy, France and the United States.

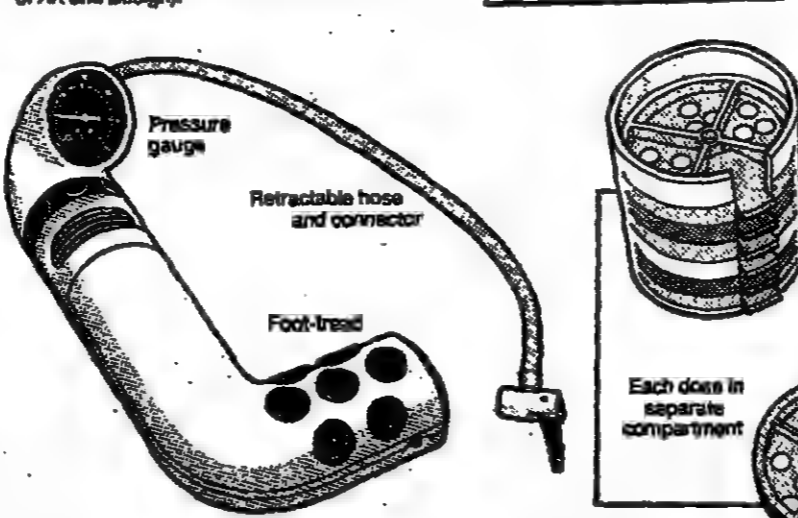
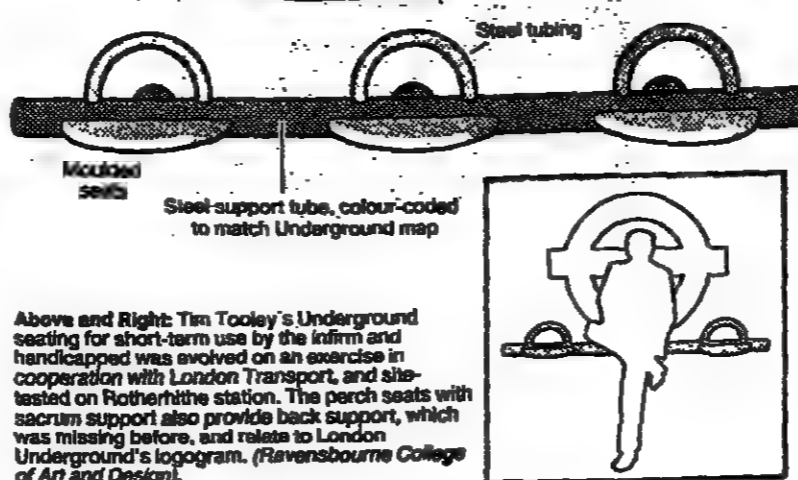
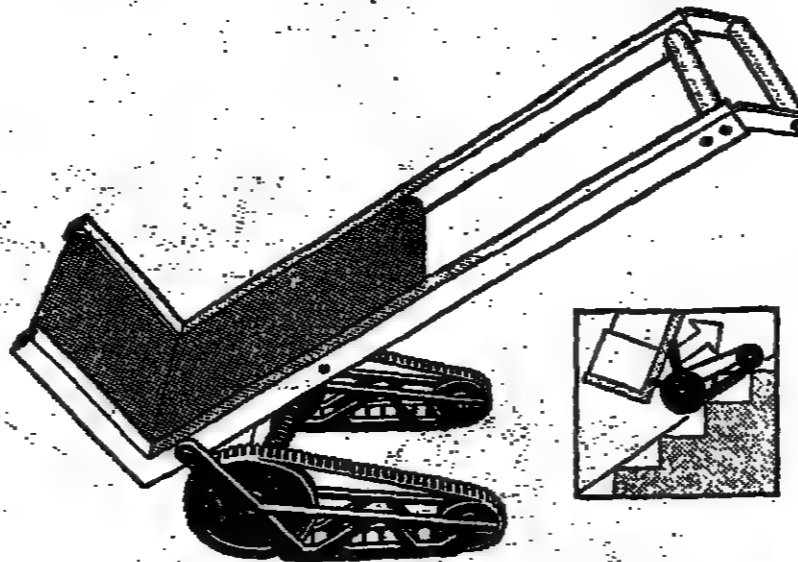
The Government is concerned. It has, for example, overhauled the design of its own forms. When Sir Derek Rayner reviewed them a couple of years ago he was outspokenly critical, but singled out one DHSS form for praise. It had been done by an art college student. Subsequently the girl had applied for a job as a designer in the Civil Service. She had, of course, been turned down.

But now Mrs Thatcher is interested, and John Butcher, the under secretary of state for industry, is able to point to a seminar campaign called Design for Profit which the Government has aimed at senior industrial management and to £10m ploughed into a funded consultancy scheme administered by the Design Council for Industry's benefit.

Sir Keith Joseph says the key part design must play in the resurgence of manufacturing industry is reason for putting £20,000 toward Young Blood. Does he know that four times that grant went in simply staging the exhibits within the Barbican "art gallery" walls so that they could be seen?

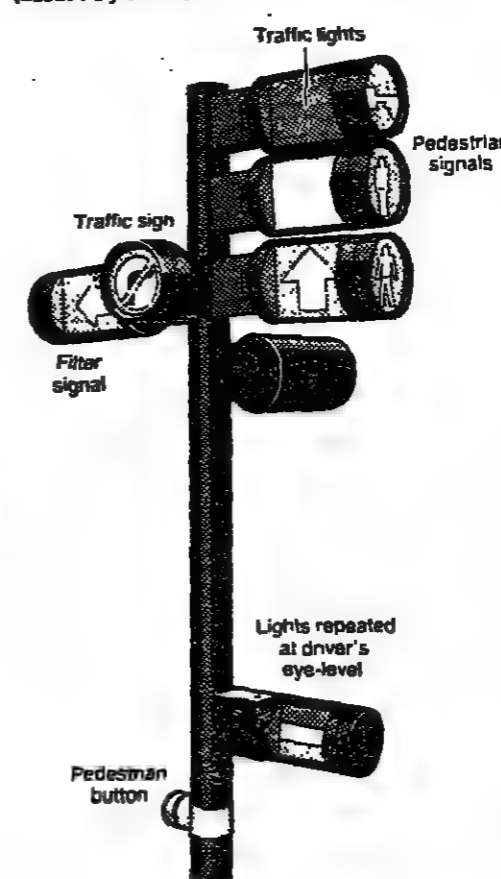
Managers still think design is to do with art

Bad design costs money. Good design means the most practical way. It is something our industrial managers, frozen in the C. P. Snow-bound wastes between the "arts" and "science" sides of our educational system, are numb about. Our slide down the competitive slope is greased by our industrial managers' incompetence with design.



Above: Hugh Cornell designed a car foot pump, easier to handle, with built-in pressure gauge, stowable hose, and clean lines. (Leeds Polytechnic).

Left: Pablo Rios's stair-climbing trolley adapts the caterpillar tractor principle to help the user manoeuvre up kerbs or staircases. (Teesside Polytechnic). Below: Malcolm Wright's modular traffic signal with lights for filtering, for forbidding right turns, and for signalling pedestrians. It also provides miniature repeater lights at motorists' eye level, as in France. (Leeds Polytechnic).



Left: In the course of her research Debbie Andrews discovered that one seventh of the patients in genetic wards are there because of mismanagement of their drug prescriptions. Her pill dispenser to encourage correct administration of medication by the elderly and infirm mounts colour-coded trays, one for each day of the week, in a transparent plastic holder. Each tray has moveable partitions so that it can be divided into compartments for pills to be taken at different times of the day, and the opening can be operated by finger, or pen if the joints are too stiff. There is also provision for braille labelling if required. (Chelsea School of Art).

Reconstruction drawings by JOHN GRIMWADE

They still think it is vaguely to do with art, removed from commercial reality.

One recent design graduate now working on fork lift trucks told me: "British manufacturers only want us to make fork lift trucks look prettier". What he wants to do is make fork lift trucks more efficient. A research student said her prototype machine for a new knitwear process can only make 6in samples: "Showing them to British manufacturers is useless. They cannot see the possibilities". Printers and weavers hardly try to produce fabrics they can get manufactured here. Instead they take their portfolios straight to the United States.

Anyone who goes to the Young Blood exhibition with the old idea that art school classes sit around drawing nudes will be surprised. There is not a painting or sculpture in the show. Instead there is a better reverse osmosis water purifier; furniture specially designed for handicapped children; a collapsible emergency rescue stretcher; scientifically accurate illustrations of the plumage of Trogian Sandpipers of the Western Palearctic;

a road super-tanker, with more capacity and a quieter cab.

And schools, indeed, are places where students work very hard and research thoroughly, motivated by an idealistic desire that the world in future should be more colourful, and more efficient than the present.

Printers and weavers go to the US

Here is an attempt to give a telephone answering machine "characteristic identity". It looks like the organ from some incredible shrinking Odeon. And there is a vacuum cleaner to go under almost any furniture, and intended to eject compressed dust pellets. Nearby a robot teapot called T4U2 carries electronic controls in its perspex chest, and a graphic artist has adapted Space Invaders imagery for a package that would contain sheaths "with built-in spermicide".

Metal Hoppers like gateways to the wastebins are pressed steel seating for airport lounges and, surprisingly, comfortable. Another student claims to have produced "the meat slicer for the decade" by researching what will be most aesthetically pleasing for both user and customer. Round the corner an economical microlight made for two, and a car of plastic panels with detachable seat cushions which double as sunbeds. Here is an ambulance with improved access and storage, complete with manufacturers' costings which indicate that "it ought to appeal to both home and overseas markets".

Near by the Tyro, a children's motorbike with a seat height and adjustable, removable front fork, and sealable fuel tank could be produced for £180 against the £200 currently charged for an engine and two wheels.

The caption says "The Tyro must surely appeal to an entrepreneurial manufacturer. Will he be British, or come from overseas?" Several hundred times, that is the challenge Young Blood offers British industry. Will there be any response?

replanted with limes with the help of a Countryside Commission grant. Can the owner of an average-sized English garden learn anything from Brown? "Yes," says Moggridge, "and Cadland in Hampshire is a good example. It is the size of a large private garden and clearly illustrates the strong sense of form essential to any garden."

Moggridge says that one of the most original things about Brown's work was that he introduced a method of carrying out landscape design maintained by natural means, so that the design continues until maturity, even when the landscape has been abandoned.

However, Moggridge says that although people are becoming interested in the formal landscapes which preceded Brown, Brown's technical precision and subtle art are insufficiently understood. "There is a school of thought which has a scientific interest in ecology but doesn't believe in art as a human activity - everything has to be done by scientific method alone. Of course you can't understand Brown's work if you don't believe in art. A second narrow school is interested only in the formal and architectural landscape. Each of these groups tends to write off everything else, which seems a great pity, as each has merits."

At Blenheim both the Countryside Commission and the Forestry Commission are giving grant-aid towards tree planting in the park, while Hampshire County Council's grant-aid for restoring Cadland has set an admirable example. However, the question of whether the restoration of a Capability Brown park is desirable in itself is controversial. Battle lines are drawn up on two disparate but related issues. One is whether Brown was merely a gifted gardener or a consummate artist who not only transformed the countryside but also people's way of looking at it. The other is the sheer size of our national heritage. Are Brown's landscapes to be regarded as uniquely precious, unalterable and untouchable - except for maintenance and restoration - or does this country have so much man-made beauty in so small an area that if we do not adapt the landscape sensitively to today's needs - including an improved A34 - we risk turning Britain into a lifeless, stiling museum?

Peta Levi on key figures in a landscape Capability's fading glory



Highclere Park: In the centre of a major planning row

One person saddened by the contemporary lack of appreciation of Brown is Hal Moggridge, a partner in the landscape architects Colvin & Moggridge. He has recently been called in to advise on the restoration of two very different Brown landscapes - Blenheim, perhaps one of Brown's largest and best known parks and Cadland, Hampshire. The latter, owned by Mr and Mrs Maldwyn Drummond, had become completely overgrown by the original Brown plans still exist in the family archives. Brown not only wrote no books but produced few plans which survive.

A Brown landscape is a deliberate and precise work of art. Moggridge says: "It is not possible to achieve the same effects if new clumps of trees are planted beside the old or the shape of the clumps are altered; you will either block or distort at least one view." He also makes the point that in England if nature is left to itself the whole of the lowlands would be covered by unkept wood-land. It would be nothing like the English landscape we admire, composed as it is of open spaces and groups of trees.

Because Brown used a good deal of beech (and beech is much more tame only about a 200-year life-cycle), his main structural planning, which has endured without much attention, is now breaking up. Moggridge says that re-planting is

often done, but usually in ignorance - gaps are being filled, shapes of shelter belts are changed and a more commercial approach to forestry is applied.

There are exceptions, such as at Petworth, well looked after by the National Trust, but ironically Petworth too has been threatened by a by-pass which would run through the middle of Brown's park. About Harwood, Yorkshire, Moggridge comments: "Although the house is exquisitely kept, with great sensitivity, the grounds, designed by Brown, seem to be slowly changing character."

"There has been considerable ornamental planting. Although quite attractive, it is inappropriate, either because of the species planted or because it is blocking views. It feels as if it is being done by someone who is interested in collecting plants but who doesn't enjoy the work of art. I think that people whose families first commissioned the parks have lost some of the sensibility towards parklands - and unfortunately it doesn't come much into British education."

The Duke of Marlborough at Blenheim is an exception. Both he and his agent, Paul Hutton, are tree-conscious. After the Grand Avenue, designed by Wise and replanted by the ninth Duke, died of elm disease in the mid-1970s, the Avenue was



Lancelot (Capability) Brown died 200 years ago. In this bicentenary year a major planning row is centred on one of his landscaped parks - Highclere in Hampshire, the home of Lord Porchester, where the Minister of Transport's attempt to divert the A34 (Southampton to the Midlands) trunk road through the Capability Brown park received a rebuff in the High Court on October 7. The Minister decided last week not to appeal and will reissue orders and hold a public inquiry if the level of objection warrants it.

Ironically, Brown never hesitated to divert roads, rivers and demitish villages. His work mirrored both an aggressive ownership of land and the dramatic changes in land use taking place during his lifetime. Then, a Brown park was a symbol of progress or of predation - depending on one's view.

Highclere has become a rallying point for the defenders of its heritage against public authorities which, in today's more crowded England, have to balance the claims on our most valuable asset - the land. The irony is that the enlightened county council which, recognising that the Brown landscape is reaching the end of its natural life-cycle, is trying to restore the park as well as help to accommodate the motorists.

Although there is a growing interest in preserving and restoring landscapes, the fact that much of Brown's work is now decaying is rarely appreciated. Thousands of acres of parkland which Brown transformed have now reached a critical stage as the first generation of trees dies out.

Born in 1716 in Northumberland - known as 'Capability' because he referred to the capability of a landscape to his clients - had a meteoric rise from obscure gardener to celebrity and friend and adviser of kings and dukes. He grew up at a time when English gardening was undergoing a radical change from the regular architectural style, exemplified by the baroque geometry of the French school of Le Notre, to the English irregular, natural or landscape style - one of Britain's greatest contributions to the 18th century.

moreover... Miles Kington

A happening, dateline Bethlehem

Students of the magazine *Private Eye* have often wondered how editor Richard Ingrams can combine his unrepentant publishing of fictitious scandal with his deeply religious view of life. How does Christianity fit in with contumely? Easily, it seems. *Moreover* has been lucky enough to secure very early copies of *Private Eye*, dating from A.D. C.O., containing some revealing stories. The following extracts should give the flavour.

"The Jews (see *Eye* passim) are at it again. Although totally unable to govern themselves, they have always objected to the efforts of the wise and good Romans to organize them, and the latest attempts of governor Cyrenius to extract a few paltry taxes from them to pay for this noble work are meeting with sullen resistance."

"Opposition is especially strong in the town of Bethlehem, where it is rumoured that a future champion of the race has recently been born. *Eye* investigations reveal that the so-called messiah is the mewling off-spring of an unemployed carpenter named Joseph, at present living in a squat in a Bethlehem stable with a consort named Mary. Or is he the father? Mother Mary seems strangely confused over the parentage of the child and has told friends that she thinks God may be the father. God was not, at the time of going to press, available for comment."

"Readers of the *Eye* will remember our previous revelations about mediocrity John the so-called Baptist (see issue 2, 5, and 8) who, when he is not planning uprisings against the Romans, is claiming to be on the line to God and should clearly be put away. Now he is showing an interest in more earthly matters and is conducting a feverish affair with none other than Salome, daughter of busybody tetrarch Herod (105). The only desert-loving John had been seen late at night in close consultation with the promiscuous Salome, whose career as a dancer has been hampered only by her complete lack of talent. A friend of the dubious couple says they were only discussing 'doctrinal affairs'. This explanation will not be good enough to satisfy the wrath of father Herod."

"More news about the Son of God (see last issue). Agents of a foreign power have been visiting the Bethlehem stable where the impecunious messiah lies in conditions condemned by the local health visitor. Reportedly they have left behind gifts for him, said to be expensive perfumes and gold ingots. Receiving payment from a foreign, possibly hostile, power in return for future services seems to qualify as treason. More information, please; 30 pieces of silver for all facts used."

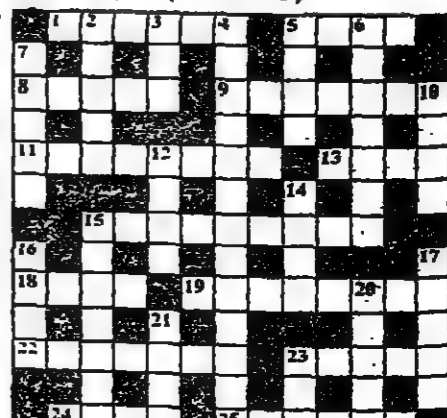
"Spart the Baptist writes: 'Neo-colonialist occupation by the Romans has led to the, er, total corruption of society by their discredited city values, and our only hope now is to look to a figure who will lead us out of decadence, though this has been totally covered up by the media. I refer of course...' (cont. p 94)."

"An *Eye* reader writes from Nazareth: 'I wonder if the Joseph whom you reported as being the father of the Son of God is the same Joseph whom I employed five years ago to mend a doorway and knock up a couple of chairs'. The chairs fell to bits three weeks later, and the door fell on my wife causing anguish both mental and physical. Repeated requests to Joseph's firm to put right the damage met with complete silence, as did requests for repayment. I am not surprised that he has moved to Bethlehem to restart operations; readers in Bethlehem should be warned."

"In the hills near Bethlehem sheep lie unattended at night, as shepherds flock in the late hours to the stable where the so-called Son of God is in residence. Neighbours have complained in vain about the sound of late-night celebration and rejoicing coming from the stable. Who is protecting whom on Bethlehem Town Council? We think we should be told."

"Apology. Following a visitation from an archangel, *Private Eye* now recognizes that there was no truth in recent stories about Bethlehem. We withdraw them unreservedly and have sold all we have and given unto the poor."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 216)



ACROSS: 1 Scanty (6), 5 Cloud (4), 8 Mountainous (5), 9 Adulterous (7), 11 Short-circuiting (8), 13 Rock and roll (4), 15 Reproduction (7), 18 Affectionately (9), 19 Memory aid (8), 22 Enduring energy (7), 23 Mannequin (5), 24 Ardour (4), 25 Respect (6). DOWN: 2 Crab sensors (5), 3 Gleam (3), 4 Reduced train fare (9), 6 Lion like (7), 7 Irritate (4), 10 Small quantity (4), 12 Agreement (4), 14 Thin coating (4), 16 Small washup (7), 17 Musical work (4), 20 Gentle poke (5), 21 Grind (4), 23 Encountered (3).

SOLUTION TO No 215: ACROSS: 1 Terephthalic 9 Elegiac 10 Lucr 11 Add 13 Oath 16 Burr 17 Utopia 18 Arch 20 Inq 23 Undergo 30 Peacekeeper DOWN: 2 Street 3 Pie 4 JATA 5 Hold 6 Recline 7 Memorabilia 8 Depredation 12 Daimio 14 Hu 15 Bonsai 19 Climate 20 Leg 24 Agree 25 Disc 26 Puck 27 Edge

Every year, hundreds of old people spend Christmas in the same place.

For many old people, Christmas Day is just another day in another year of loneliness. No wonder some don't even see a reason to get out of bed for it.

It's a tragic situation, but one that, with your help, we can do something about.

Our donations will help establish Day Centres, and provide minibuses for transport. So that lonely old people can meet and make friends with others in the same position.

Because with friends, a lonely old person need never be lonely again.

Please give generously.

To: The Hon. Treasurer, Rt Hon. Lord Maybury-King, Help the Aged, Room T1007, FREEPOST 30, London W1E 7JZ. (No stamp needed) I enclose my cheque/postal order for £

Name

Address

Postcode

Help the Aged Christmas Appeal

THE ARTS

Concerts

LPO/Rostropovich Festival Hall

It is unfortunate that last night's performance of Britten's *War Requiem* should have come so soon after the powerful new recording conducted by Simon Rattle, for any lower degree of urgency was bound to seem, and perhaps to make the work seem, an honourable failure.

There is an argument that failure is built into the piece, that the intertwining of public commemoration and private thought could never work, and that Britten's music conveys all too well the tastelessness of Owen's verse (but then what would tasteful war poetry be like?).

Mr Rattle's recording, however, has proved that something tearfully positive can be made of the contradictions, whereas Mr Rostropovich last night, bringing such weight and intensity to the parts, gave less attention to the gaps between them, which is where the work has its heart.

There were, though, many incidental compensations. Not all the adjustments of tempo were fruitful, the spoken chorus left no impression as a rushed

gabble, but the slowness of the close was good, making the final concord feel like a hopeless dream.

Strong, too, were the big orchestral climaxes, and particularly the great swirl of sound that Mr Rostropovich achieved just before the last Owen scene. But the choir was less surely handled. When it was a matter of fierce attacks from small groups, they were there, but the whole mass lacked unanimity.

Nevertheless, the chorus master, Richard Cooke, made a significant contribution to the performance in his direction of the chamber ensemble, whose music can rarely be before heard so brightly and rich. It was an imaginative foil for Robert Tear's cultured artistry, a little less so for John Shirley-Quirk, who is hampered in this work by appearing always so frank and therefore missing any irony.

Galina Vishnevskaya, vested as a priestess in black and gold, gathered her every resource to swoop in challenge and warning, but not quite so triumphantly as to make one forget that 20 years have passed since she recorded the work for Britten.

Paul Griffiths

Bumbry, Verrett Covent Garden

When Shirley Verrett turned to Grace Bumbry on the stage of the Royal Opera House last night and, as La Gioconda, taunted Laura with "You would fly then, my happy rival?", a strange thrill seemed to ripple through the auditorium.

It is, indeed, a risky business bringing together two Lady Macbeths, two Normas, two Carnes on a concert platform scarcely big enough for them both. But risky partnerships are, of course, something Covent Garden both delights and excels in; and so does its audience.

No matter that "E un anatema" from *Gioconda* seemed more competition than conflict. No matter that the strain of juxtaposition seemed to tell even more as Miss Bumbry's Anna fought vocally as well as emotionally alongside Verrett's Giovanna in "Sul suo capo aggravi un Dio", their overlapping sequences were the more compelling for the tension

generated between them. No matter, either, that the Royal Opera Orchestra, conducted by Michael Langelli Veltri, making his British debut, was rather more incidental than it need have been; it provided some fine sugar-spun intermezzi to sweeten the air.

Of the duets, Act 2 scene 1 of *Aida* shone out: Bumbry's solid block of vibrant red, in voice and dress, was, as Amneris, a vivid and proper foil for the more volatile shades and tones of Verrett's Aida, beautifully scaled to a heartfelt "Numi, pietà".

And of the solo acts, which included entrancing recreation of Lady Macbeth's "Vieni, raffretta" by Verrett and an artfully manoeuvred "Pace, mio Dio" from Bumbry as Verdi's Leonora, Verrett's Desdemona stood alone. Without a stick of scenery, and amid a full orchestra, the isolation of the bedchamber returned, at last, to Covent Garden, concentrated deep within the voice itself.

Hilary Finch

John Piper The Tate Gallery, Marlborough Fine Arts

Old Master Paintings Chaucer Fine Arts Inc.

Polite Society: Arthur Devis 1712- 1787

National Portrait Gallery

The Architect's Handmaid: Paint colour in the 18th century interior

RIBA Heinz Gallery

The overriding impression conveyed by the comprehensive exhibition of John Piper's work, staged at the Tate Gallery (until January 22) in honour of the artist's 80th birthday, is of consistency. After an early flirtation with abstract art he turned to the depiction of buildings, beginning (in 1937) with *Welsh Nonconformist Chapels* (National Museum of Wales, Cardiff). From then on he has concentrated almost exclusively on architectural subjects, his aim being, as he stated himself in 1950 "to express a personal love of country and architecture, and the humanity that inhabits them."

Five years later Sir Osbert Sitwell commissioned Piper to make a series of watercolour studies of his Tuscan castle, Montefunari, which brilliantly convey what David Fraser Jenkins, the organizer of the exhibition and author of the catalogue, dubs "the wit of the original builders and of its evocation of earlier generations."

Piper's range has been enormous, embracing theatre design, especially for the operas of Benjamin Britten, book illustration and the production of fabrics and wallpapers. A complementary show of his recent work at the Marlborough Gallery, entitled *Romantic Places* (until January 14) demonstrates the continuing vitality of one of our most dedicated artists: the "pleasing decay" which he so often celebrates is certainly not affecting him.

Many of his pictures of ruined churches, which he executed as an official war



Piper's Italian and Gothic, Hafod 1939 (National Museum of Wales, Cardiff)

artist, are familiar images which have national resonance, but the studies of the Sitwell family home, Kenilworth Hall, which were executed in 1942 and have not been seen in public since 1945, make an added impact as a result.

On the ground floor are hung the heavy religious religious works, such as the dramatic *Hero and Leander* by Nicolas Regnier, who was Flemish born but died in 1667 in Venice, where he probably painted this picture around 1650.

The main first-floor room is devoted to an important group of architectural fantasies, mainly by Panini and his followers, including a *Christ Healing the lame Man at the Pool of Bethesda* in which the miracle is virtually swamped by the grandiose setting of picturesquely ruined colonnades. J. J. Servandoni is said to have worked in Panini's studio at about the time that this picture was painted (c 1720), but by 1731 he had moved to Paris where he was received into the *Académie Royale* in that year. Paintings by him are very rare (he is best remembered as the architect of the Church of Saint

Sulpice) and so his *Capriccio of Ruins with figures in the exhibition* is of considerable interest, as well as being a ravishingly pretty picture.

The architecture clearly derives from Panini and yet anticipates Ledoux, while the figures are executed in a fresh, painterly way that is quite Venetian.

Venice has in fact taken over the rear room on the second floor, in which are hung Egidio Dall' Oglia's *Five Senses*, a delightful set of four oval and one irregularly shaped canvases still in their original gilt frames. The framemaker seems to be depicted, together with the artist, in *Sight*, but the most appealing is *Taste* in which a young man dips a wafer in a glass of wine held by his female companion. Dall' Oglia was a pupil of Piazzetta in Venice, whose "character heads" are the obvious source for these *Senses*. Italian pictures appear in the background of several of the works by Arthur Devis, on show at the National Portrait Gallery until January 29, which is about half of an exhibition organized by and originally shown at the Harris Museum

and Art Gallery, Preston (Devis's birthplace) and sponsored by the Central Lancashire Development Corporation.

What looks like a Panini can be discerned above the chimney piece in the inner room in *John Bacon and his Family* (Yale Centre for British Art) and again in *The Duet* (Victoria & Albert Museum) which also includes what could be a *Salvator Rosa*. That the interiors depicted by Devis are almost all imaginary is now generally accepted, but it also seems, according to Stephen Sartin in the catalogue, that in certain cases the sitters are shown wearing not their own clothes, but fashionable dresses taken from miniature garments worn by a lay figure.

The pictures of the later 1750s do give support to this suggestion; for instance, the two sitters in the portrait of *Alicia and Jane Clarke* (private collection) are wearing almost the same garment, one in pink, the other in blue.

What is undeniable is that Devis generally portrayed his provincial, middle-class sitters as they saw themselves, rather than as they were.

Devis's interiors, though fanciful, are packed with intriguing detail, such as the precise position of fire-irons in a grate or the way in which a gentleman carried his hat, but their colouring tends to be generalized, usually a sober stone colour or grey. Ian Bristow, who has devised the fascinating exhibition *The Architect's Handmaid* at the RIBA Heinz Gallery in Portman Square until December 17, would undoubtedly be able to work out not only the exact shade that such a room would have been painted, but also what the pigment was and from what it was obtained.

Bristow is the foremost authority today on authentic paint colours and has advised on a number of major restoration and redecoration schemes. As well as samples of all the main colours employed during the period, there are some exquisite drawings of complete schemes, notably by Edward Stevens.

Jeffery Daniels

Television Talking tedium

Malvinas: A Story of Betrayals (Channel 4) opened with film of the Argentinian soldiers on the Falkland Islands: now, back at home in their kitchens and sitting rooms, they were at last able to talk. As the title of last night's documentary suggested, they were not happy about their experience: "Our leaders sold us out", was the chant of the apparently cheerful crowds in Buenos Aires.

This was the first extended presentation on British television of the Argentinian "case" (complete with ethnic music in the background) and as such it ought to have been at least intermittently interesting - although it was hard to summon up the enthusiasm once again to listen to the familiar arguments.

Malvinas had, in any case, an equally familiar radical tone, and both the British and Argentinian governments were damned for "injustice and exploitation". This was instant agitprop history, with the usual vapid generalizations about "capitalism in crisis" and its "internal contradictions" (crisis and contradiction are favourite radical words, although they tend generally to reflect the parlous condition of the speaker).

One representative of the English "labour movement", sitting in a pub with the obligatory pint of bitter, even talked about the struggle to avoid an Argentinian-style dictatorship in England - although, to judge from the lugubrious footage of English life shown in the programme, one might be forgiven for thinking that it had already arrived.

The pictures of the war itself, and the scenes of rioting in Buenos Aires after the Argentinian defeat, had the fascination of all such things but, even by the standards of Falklands boredom, this was an unusually tedious programme: endless interviews with talking heads, pictures of empty warehouses to emphasize "industrial depression" and of people walking in the street to suggest "local colour".

Peter Ackroyd

Gary Dartnall is in the front row of those watching the renaissance of the British film industry. And he is ready to join in the success.

Mining gold from the silver screen

In a vast, anonymous office Gary Dartnall is fighting to join the ever-expanding ranks of the saviours of the British film industry. David Puttnam he is not. The suit and accent are mid-Atlantic rather than Knighbridge and the conversation is that of the upwardly mobile corporate planner rather than that of the reformed advertising executive.

Dartnall is the man who has taken over the running of the feature film side of Thorn EMI. It is a small part of that corporate empire, but in the

little world of the British movie industry he is potentially one of the biggest investors.

He has moved rapidly. He started work in May and has now merged the film production, cinema and video companies, announced a production programme under Verity Lambert which should average five to ten British films a year, each in the £5m-£10m range, started to revamp the company's 110 cinemas and launched a new distribution company called Thorn EMI Classics designed to exploit the group's massive back list of titles.

But why should this company, with its unhappy recent history of film production and as one of the prime sufferers from the decline of cinema ticket sales suddenly want to make movies? The answer lies in a graph which Dartnall suddenly digs out from a pile of papers on his desk. It runs from 1950 to the year 2000 and it starts with two lines of feature film business: first in cinema then on television. These run steadily along and then begin to show decline and just after 1983 they divide. Two new lines appear - video and cable. These soar upwards to around the £20,000m mark. Total world movie business is about to explode and Dartnall thinks Thorn EMI will be part of the action.

But the only way to be sure is to acquire the right product and that is the drive which is animating Dartnall's revitalization of the company. "As the demand for product increases - and it will increase - then the talent becomes more and more scarce. That talent will go to the company that can give them the greatest return from the product they create."

The secret of maximizing this is something Dartnall calls "the sequential pattern of release". Video and cable/satellite broadcasting have added whole new areas of exploitation to each film. Theatrical distribution is still the prime showcase, but the other areas provide secondary profit-makers. Integrate them all and you can promise the highest return.

Dartnall's policy has so far been endorsed by the winning of an agreement to distribute outside the US the films of Silver Screen Partners, a group formed to spend \$83m on American movies. He was able to offer them an 18 country network of managers who would take over theatrical video and cable releases in their territory.

On film production Dartnall shows a gratifying commitment to the all-British movie: "We are a British company, we



Gary Dartnall: "We've got to make films we believe in here"

should make British films. There's a wealth of talent in England which has been exploited by the American companies for years."

Verity Lambert's initial list ran to *Illegal Aliens*, a comedy by Mel Smith and Griff Rhys-Jones, *Dream Child* by Dennis Potter and *Comfort and Joy*, written and directed by Bill Forsyth. There is, though, the thorny question of international appeal.

"It's a very delicate mix between using a British talent and at the same time finding a product which will work in a world market. We've got to be very careful. The cost of production has gone up too much for us to rely simply on the home market. On the other hand we shouldn't just emulate the American film industry. First and foremost we've got to make films we believe in here."

Elsewhere in the sequential release pattern Dartnall has launched a study of the EMI cinema chain. Its current 110 sites have 305 screens and he suspects this may be about the right number. In other words, the decline of cinema venues has been halted. But there is a possibility that the number of screens may fall, as Dartnall feels that as movie-going becomes more of an event in contrast to television watching, we may see a return to the single big screen cinema.

The Classics division will provide theatrical outlets for

EMI's vast library of films. Cinemas like the Lumière and the Curzon in London will be offered films for whole seasons. New revenue should be created at virtually nil cost to the group. And, finally, Elstree Studios is back in the black again after a period of losses.

If it all sounds too good to be true, then that is perhaps because the movies are always larger than life anyway and Dartnall has spent a career in the business. He is 46 and has worked with Associated British Pathé, Alliance Inc. and the Walter Reed Organisation. So he has had his own good times and bad times. And perhaps that pedigree gives him authority when he says: "From the point of view of an investor in film today, his money is safer than in the past because the new markets are more quantifiable."

If he is right, then the British film renaissance, so far patchy and more likely to be conducted at the Nissen hut end of things than in offices like Dartnall's, could become a reality. On the other hand if he is alone, then our national exposure to his explosive growth which his graphs predict will be relatively limited and the Americans will once again swamp the distribution chain. Either way it is refreshing to encounter a man like Dartnall, so completely at home with his jargon and so unafraid of the big claim.

Bryan Appleyard

Please send a little Christmas cheer

Barnardo's needs to find the money to help over 9,000 needy children next year. Needy means disturbed, distressed, handicapped or any one of a hundred ills that can sabotage a child.

Only by your generous giving can we continue to provide the help they need.

And Christmas is giving. Please send your donation to Nicholas Lowe, Appeals Director, 168 Barnardo's House, Dr Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Barking, Essex, or use your Barclaycard or Access by calling 01-200 0200.

Why not cut out and send the tag below to a friend for his or her Christmas tree.

A little Christmas cheer-

HOORAY!

Dear _____
I know you won't mind but I'm not sending you a present this Christmas. Instead, I sent the money to Dr Barnardo's. By the way, instead of giving me a present why not do the same?

Dr Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Barking, Essex IG6 1QC.



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Opera
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Massenet's

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"... the commanding presence of the diva justifies everything... the sound remains so glorious, so full, rich and all-embracing."

"Visually, this production is a *fin de siècle* re-creation, scrumptious, grandly and glowingly ornate..."

Cast includes Joan Sutherland with Ernesto Veronelli, Gwynne Howell, Diana Moutague, Ryland Davies, Geoffrey Moses and Jonathan Summers. Conductor Richard Bonynge

Dec 6, 10, 13, 16 at 7.00 pm. Reservations 01-240 1066. Access/Visa welcome.

Joan Sutherland

THE TIMES DIARY

Frankly speaking

Sir Frank Cooper, until his retirement last year Permanent Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Defence and scourge of the Treasury, continues to give ministers the benefit of his advice. He is an anonymous contributor to a regular series in *The Economist* called *Think Tank*. *The Economist* describes the series as follows: "Its reports, suggested privately by ministers on topics currently vexing the cabinet... are written for ministerial consumption." Sir Frank's contribution, on defence spending, will argue "that research and development waste a great deal of money".

Downing thumbs

The 1982 undergraduate Christmas dinner at Downing College, Cambridge, became a little too lively for the college's governing body, which this year laid down a code of conduct to ensure a more dignified gathering. According to the code, these rules must be obeyed: No food, drink or liquid or other missiles shall be thrown. Any undergraduate who comes dressed or equipped with waterproofs or other protective clothing will be refused admission. And, if matters still get out of hand, the presiding fellow may send everyone home.

Iran Air has so many passengers during the Haj pilgrimage that it has to borrow pilots from other airlines. This year (total pilgrims flying to Mecca were left in the sure hands of Irish pilot Captain Sherry.

Shot to ribbons

The Duke of Edinburgh has a reputation for using fairly robust language to state his case. Even so, his speech to the Indian ex-Services League during his recent visit to India is surely exaggerated. He said, according to *India Weekly*, that governments tended to look after members of the armed forces during their service period, after which, "we all become part of, as someone called it, the military culture and to be exterminated if possible."

Sans Santa

Thought for the Day, a programme which transmits an early-morning moral message on Irish radio, recently provoked some listener reaction by casting doubt on the existence of Santa Claus. After objections by parents of young children, the station replaced the repeat of the talk scheduled later in the morning with something less contentious.

Oh, Kaye!

A circular has gone out asking concert promoters to note that Michael Kaye is no longer general administrator of the South Bank concert halls and that any intention of him should be removed from all publicity material, including concert programmes. The circular is printed on paper headed South Bank Concert Halls: General Administrator Michael Kaye.



Barry Fantoni: Arthur's decorating the Christmas tree. Have you got any more of that cod that glows in the dark?

Slabbed off

St George's Chapel, Windsor, is raising £15,000 by selling off its eighteenth century stone floor to Americans at £15 a slab. Advertised in an American newspaper, the slabs are shipped out in blue packets, each with a certificate of authenticity from the Dean, the Right Reverend Michael Mann. The chapel says the floor was replaced last year because it had begun to wear thin.

Who was Who

After my report on Friday that Garry Allighan, the former Labour MP for Gravesend, still enjoys an entry in *Who's Who*, I have discovered from his son-in-law, Michael Percival, that Mr Allighan died five years ago in Johannesburg. That explains why *Who's Who*'s letters to him, asking for up-to-date information, remained unanswered.

This can't really wait for Saturday's Sporting Diary, in the annual soccer match between the Press Gallery and MPs, played on Lushington Avenue, our own Philip Webster scored two goals, one of them a penalty. The Press Gallery won 5-1.

Bombshell-proof?

The Moroccan News Agency is perplexing military experts. It reports from Bangkok that the Soviet Union has delivered important military hardware to Vietnam, for its winter offensive against Cambodia - notably *des blindes*. But Russia has not transported a division of flaxen-haired Amazons. The dispatch, the Ministry of Defence says, should have read *blindes* (armoured cars). PHS

Partners - not just allies

by Richard Holme

wait to see the back of each other. Fortunately only a handful of activists take this view and it is hardly found at all among the mass membership or the voters. However, chauvinism could prosper if indecision persists.

The second position is separatist. A separatist argues like this: "The Alliance exists and at this stage it is helpful to my party. So let's repeat it for the next election on the same basis. We must be sure to get every advantage possible on seats and manifesto by tough negotiation. Keep our options open for the future. We may want to get closer together with our partners after the next election. Equally we may want to discard them so we must resist any moves towards integration which would make it difficult to disengage. Meanwhile the watchword is separate development."

Like the embrace of a society hostess, the separatist relationship is to consist of being held stiffly at arm's length while being pecked on the cheek.

This robustly "party first" view is held by some senior figures in the Alliance who seized on the "No merger now" decision of the conference to justify their belief in parallel but separate development. There is a legitimate fear on the part of some SDP leaders of being swamped by the larger Liberal membership. Interestingly, this matches the original fears of Liberals of being lost in the belly of the new party.

But if both parties proceed out of fear, competing apprehensively with each other,

they will have constructed a zero-sum game. The goodwill and enthusiasm at the heart of voluntary political activity, and particularly of the Alliance, will simply leak away, leaving two small parties and a tragic lost opportunity behind. That is why those who look to the larger promise of the Alliance take the third position of step-by-step integration, moving towards union over a period of years. The rock on which this union can be carefully built is local agreement between the members of both parties which has already been forged in fighting elections together.

An integrationist strategy, in which the parties were set on convergent courses, would have great advantages. As the prospect of shared success grew, the fear of being swallowed up would become an irrelevance; as identity of interest became more complete, sharp-elbowed competition for seats would become rarer; as campaigning was combined, expensive duplication of organizational, research and publicity costs could be eliminated; as policy development was conducted jointly, the prospect of damaging election vows on a cobbled-together manifesto would recede.

It has been said that the job of politicians is to find out what is going on and put a name to it. What is going on in the Alliance is a coming together of millions of people with the common goal of progressive policies and government reform. We want our leaders to put an unambiguous name to it: Alliance before party.

Richard Holme is a former president of the Liberal Party.

Olive branch or playing for time?

A foreign diplomat in Managua was asked the other day what new gesture Nicaragua's ruling Sandinistas could make to defuse the sharp hostility of the Reagan administration to their Marxist regime. "Mass suicide?" he suggested. A flippant response, perhaps, for 18 months has prompted Mr Reagan to sponsor a nasty little civil war along Nicaragua's border with Honduras, station a mighty naval task force off Nicaragua's shores and post several thousand US combat troops within easy striking range of the country in Honduras bases.

Yet recent events in Washington and Managua, culminating in Nicaragua's announcement last Sunday of national elections in 1985, raises legitimate questions about what the Americans really wish to achieve in their dealings with the first victorious liberation movement in Latin America since Fidel Castro came to power.

"Reagan's present policy only makes sense," observes the same foreign diplomat, "if you assume that the US believes it has forced the Sandinistas to their knees and is now determined to get them belly-down on the floor."

The president's gunboat diplomacy has undoubtedly achieved results in Nicaragua. The US invasion of Grenada put the fear of God into the Sandinistas. I was in Managua at the time: the first thing every government official asked was, will the Marines be landing here next?

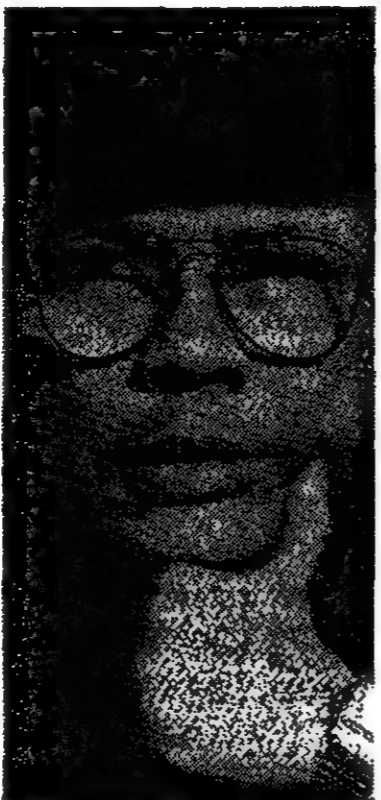
With the fragile economy reeling under the cost of fighting the US-backed "contras" - counter-revolutionaries - massing near the Honduran frontier, and Nicaragua's Cuban allies making it clear they would not intervene in the event of an American invasion, the leadership was badly off balance. As bank clerks and bus drivers practised street fighting and bomb shelters were stocked up with baby food, the Sandinistas began asking West European diplomats how they could convince Washington that Reagan's message had been understood.

The first clear indication of Nicaragua's desire to appease Washington is the departure over the past week or so of a significant number of Cubans working with the government. The Sandinistas are acutely aware that Reagan's principal justification for the Grenada invasion - the "Cubanization" of the island - could be applied far more easily to their country. It is always difficult to get precise information in Managua, especially when the level of paranoia rises, but reliable foreign sources there accept that between 1,000 and 2,000 Cuban civilians have already left the country. Most, if not all, were teachers and technicians.

The Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Paris, forcing ground for the French elite, has become the scene of political and academic conflict. At issue is the entry last month of ten students without taking the usual rigorous entrance examinations. Instead, despite strenuous protests from the opposition parties in Parliament and the ENA graduates' association, their qualification for entering this prestige institute was based on a minimum eight years as trade union officials or local government representatives and passing a separate, less academic examination.

Graduates of the ENA form a powerful old-boy network among France's political leaders, at the top levels of government ministries, in the diplomatic service, and in the public and private sectors of industry. In addition to Jacques Chirac, Mayor of Paris, three senior ministers and the opposition leader, Giscard d'Estaing, also attended the school. But the ENA, having played a pre-eminent role in French society since its establishment in 1945, is now under attack on the grounds that it creates a self-perpetuating oligarchy of bourgeois technocrats.

In September 1981 President Mitterrand introduced a plan to "democratize" the institution; his project was the subject of long and heated debates in Parliament and culminated in a law of January 19, 1983 instituting a third competition alongside the existing two (external and internal) for entry. The number of places allocated to the external competition open to university graduates up to the age of 27 has been reduced this year from 86 to



Thomas Borge: credited with the shift to a more conciliatory policy but denied a visa to visit Washington

The Cuban military advisers training Nicaragua's powerful armed forces - 200 say the Sandinistas, 2,000 according to the US - are, of course, far more important in Washington's eyes. In the past few days there have been reports that some of them, too, are preparing to pull out. One senior Sandinista, Daniel Ortega, has said publicly that Nicaragua would send all foreign military personnel home provided other Central American nations did the same - that is, if American troops and trainers were removed from Honduras and El Salvador.

At the same time, it appears that the Nicaraguans would welcome the speedy departure of Salvadoran guerrilla representatives who have been based in and around Managua for several years. The US has always insisted that the war in El Salvador is directed from command centres in these sanctuaries, which are also said to coordinate a vast flow of weapons to the insurgents.

American military sources in the region have long had their doubts about this, but the presence of guerrilla leaders in Nicaragua clearly provides a potential target for US reprisals. A Salvadoran spokesman indicated recently that the guerrillas' political wing would be moving out, probably to Mexico City. The Reagan administration will only believe that if and when it happens.

A sharp attack of mal de meritocracy

80, while the number earmarked for the internal competition - open to established civil servants up to the age of 36 - has been increased from 64 to 72. Hitherto, attempts at democratizing the ENA have taken the form of increasing the number of places allocated to the internal competition at the expense of the external.

Pierre Labory, the official in the civil service department responsible for implementing the new reform, has stated: "The ENA must be opened up. Students at present come from privileged backgrounds, and must have attended the same school (ie the Paris Institut d'Etudes Politiques) before entering. Students from more modest backgrounds, who do not possess this book-learning but who have a knowledge of real life, should be admitted."

Opponents of what has been described as the "third column" admit that nearly 80 per cent of ENA's students are from upper-class or upper middle-class homes, but they claim that the government is using "democratization" to undermine the independence of the French civil service by introducing left-wing activists into the school through the back door.

The fear has stemmed from the fact that the candidates for the new competition had to be approved by the communist minister for the civil

churchmen for their "political" intervention in such sensitive matters as the right of conscientious objectors to refuse military service, are now talking earnestly of the value of dialogue and mutual understanding.

Senior Sandinistas made a point of attending a reception for two Venezuelan bishops in Managua last week, at which the Nicaraguan prelates were among the guests of honour. The regime is also making conciliatory noises about its dealings with the country's Miskito Indian minority, which church leaders have severely criticized in the past.

Is it all mere window-dressing, a cynical manoeuvre for time by the Sandinistas during a period of great vulnerability? The Reagan administration still seems to think so. The State Department declared last week "We have no real evidence that the Sandinistas have changed their basic philosophy towards human rights and the expression of views by internal opponents". It was the State Department, too, which refused a visa for Nicaragua's Interior Minister, Tomas Borge. It is widely believed in Managua that the American ambassador himself had assured Borge that there would be no problem about going to the US to meet members of Congress and address foreign affairs groups.

The word in Washington is that the president's most hawkish aides persuaded him, over State Department misgivings, to block the visa as a way of showing the Sandinistas that the US means business and expects further concessions. "It would be a grave mistake to misinterpret our recent flexibility as a sign of weakness," retorts Borge, who is generally considered to have been behind the regime's recent shift towards conciliation.

Back in August, announcing the establishment of his naval task force off Nicaragua, Mr Reagan let it be known that he thought it would be "extremely difficult" ever to come to terms with the present Sandinista government. Many critics of his strategy in Central America believe that the administration is actually committed to undermining and overthrowing the Sandinistas altogether.

To achieve that, it would be necessary to believe that most Nicaraguans yearn to be free of their admittedly inefficient and authoritarian masters. This is a very dangerous illusion, as dangerous as the administration's enthusiastic support for the most reactionary of the "contra" groups, commanded by former associates of Somoza, who make no bones about their dreams of bloody revenge if they ever shoot their way back to power.

Philip Jacobson

majority dismissed the association's committee for not resisting with enough vigour the introduction of the new competition. It also decided to hold a referendum to test the views of all former students of the school. This was followed on October 25 by a vote in the Senate. Article 20 of the Civil Service Reform Bill instituting the third competition. At almost the same time the interviews for the 47 candidates were taking place at the ENA: 10 candidates, of whom eight are known to hold strong socialist or communist views, were declared successful.

Anicet Le Pors' threat to take sanctions against the civil servants who expressed their opposition to the third competition through the ENA graduates' association led to acrimonious exchanges in the Chamber of Deputies on November 9: insults were hurled by the opposition resulting in the socialist and communist deputies walking out of the chamber during a debate for the first time since 1981. It is unlikely that the government will change its mind, and the number of candidates to be admitted to the ENA by the new method is planned to increase annually until a maximum of 30 a year is reached. Moreover, the Paris Institut d'Etudes Politiques, always willing to adapt itself to the changing ENA scene, has already started courses to prepare candidates for the next third competition.

James Coveney

The author is Professor of French at the University of Bath.

Duncan Campbell

Sheltering behind a wall of silence

Ever since the invention of the hydrogen bomb, civil defence in Britain has been intimately linked to defence policy and the nuclear deterrent - a link heavily stressed by the present Government when it began planning for new statutory civil defence duties to be imposed on local authorities. These regulations took effect last week.

The Greater London Council and its advisers believe the new civil defence regulations to be ill-drafted, contradictory, and aimed primarily at misleading the public about the risks of nuclear war. Civil defence schemes as drafted in Whitehall have much to do with providing a public palliative to ease acceptance of nuclear weapons and little to do with direct public protection. They are part of the public psychology of deterrence.

As a "nuclear free zone" authority, the GLC continues to believe that the only sane defence against war is determinedly to campaign for the preservation of peace. The GLC required to shield Londoners from the grotesque horror of future war, will carry out its legal responsibilities. But in nuclear war, can the capital city and its people actually be defended in the way the Government proposes? And does the duty to plan lie only on the councils on whom the new law is imposed?

No. If there is a duty, it belongs also to central government departments, which must provide the critical information on the risks and effects of war around which plans may be formulated. The GLC first began seeking the necessary information from the Government more than a year ago. So far the Home Office and Ministry of Defence have shirked their essential duty to tell local authorities and their electors what Britain may expect in war. Officials seem unwilling policy to confront the truth about the effects of war.

Last summer legal advisers warned the GLC that before the council could make any civil defence plans it was essential to obtain clear and detailed planning assumptions - which should include such matters as the likely type of war, the scope of possible destruction, and the warning time the council might get. Following this advice, on October 20, 1982, the council wrote seeking the necessary information from the Home Office.

The GLC's letter asked for assistance on 27 detailed aspects of war planning. It listed 30 possible likely targets of conventional or nuclear attack which would affect Londoners, and asked if any central government department had prepared its civil defence plans for the capital. The Home Office has failed to answer any of these questions, even the most trivial. One year ago, the Permanent Under-Secretary told the council that the questions were "complex" and were

being urgently dealt with. But in January, the Home Office wrote again to say that they could not provide any "specific response". They have not responded since.

Last Thursday a Home Office Minister, Mr Douglas Hurd, met a GLC delegation to discuss implementing the new regulations. But the minister was unable to explain why, a year after his most senior official promised substantive information, no help on civil defence planning had been forthcoming. All he could offer was the prospect of a new Home Office "consolidated circular" said to contain 22 chapters. But only ten chapters had been written, and even a first draft of this section would be unlikely to reach local authorities much before March 1984.

Given the determination with which ministers have been attempting to coerce dissenting local authorities into making war plans, it may seem hard to believe that it is the Home Office itself which is the road block obstructing civil defence plans. Yet the present administration's record on providing civil defence information to local authorities is appalling. Since 1980, Home Office guidance circulars have been issued at an average rate of two a year, compared with seven to eight a year over the preceding eight years. None has yet been issued in 1983.

If, as we fear, the Home Office continues to withhold vital information, it may be extremely difficult or impossible to draw up credible civil defence plans for London until the relevant questions are properly answered. The GLC does not however propose to stand idle while ministers and civil servants fiddle and procrastinate, and London risks the nuclear threat.

Under the new regulations, the Home Secretary may give "directions" to local authorities with which he disagrees - but these directions must be realistic and reasonable. The Home Secretary cannot use his powers to coerce councils into misleading the public. He cannot lawfully "direct" that black shall be white.

As ministers frequently remind us, nuclear weapons cannot now be disavowed. So when will they come clean and publish the many secret assessments that have been made of the likely course of future war and its consequences for the people and industry of these densely populated islands?

The Government proposes to abolish the GLC. Would that it might as easily abolish the threat of war. And when it talks about civil defence, the evidence suggests clearly that it does not mean business.

The author is the GLC Public Services and Fire Brigade Committee's consultant on civil defence.

Roger Scruton

Left, right: putting things straight

In the French Estates General of 1789, the nobility sat on the King's right, and the "third estate" on his left. Probably nothing else that those troublesome people did had proved more damaging. Henceforth left and right were to name the two exclusive and exhaustive political options, the two poles of an axis upon which every political opinion must ultimately be made to lie.

Then came the communists with their deafening propaganda. To left was added "communist", and to right "fascist". And the extraordinary thing was that it worked! I constantly come across people who show no other signs of being mentally retarded, and indeed who are as intelligent and well-educated as is necessary for the conduct of everyday affairs, who nevertheless solemnly subscribe to the view that on the "far right" of political opinion lies fascism, and on the far left communism. What mastery propaganda that makes communism no more than a distant point along the road on which you have already embarked, just as soon as you have recoiled from the "fascist" enemy!

The effect of this is to obscure the real similarity between those purported opposites. Fascism and communism both involve the attempt to create a mass popular movement, and a state bound together under the rule of a single party, in which there will be total cohesion about a common goal.

Both demand the elimination of opposition, by whatever means, and the replacement of ordered dispute between parties by clandestine "discussion" within the ruling elite. Both involve taking control ("in the name of the people") of the means of communication and education, and both involve subjecting the entire economy to a central command. Both movements regard law as defensible, and constitutional constraints as largely irrelevant, for both are essentially "revolutionary", governed by an iron discipline.

Fully realized, fascism and communism are forms of military government, involving the permanent mobilization of the entire populace, which can no longer perform even the most peaceful-seeming actions - eating, walking, praying or meeting - except in a spirit of war. There is a difference however. Whereas fascist governments have come to power with extensive popular support, and occasionally renounced power in favour of constitutional government, communist governments have always gained power by a coup d'état, and have never peacefully relinquished it.

Such facts destroy the two equations which are so fundamental to current journalism: "fascist = far

right"; "communist = far left". Far more pernicious than these equations, however, has been the reasoning of those who hold that the "far right" is to be identified in terms of specific "fascist" attitudes - in particular, attitudes towards race and national identity. This disease of the intellect, which puts the "free association of ideas" in place of argument, leads to such absurd conclusions as that the National Front is "on the extreme right". It also leads to the idea that politicians who advocate immigration controls, repatriation, or whatever are to the "right" of those who do not. Since this reasoning is almost invariably conducted by persons to whom it is morally impossible to be on the right, it has the effect of closing the mind to all rational discussion of one of our most important political problems.

If I had to decide the question, I should say that the National Front - an egalitarian and populist movement, hostile to constitutional government and to traditional authority, fired by ideology and by a spurious search for a common purpose - is more on the "left" than on the "right".

But I hesitate to use the labels. After all, where do I stand? I believe in the welfare state, in a government ready to participate actively in the nation's economic life, in strong and representative trade unions active in pursuit of their members' interests, in liberal laws of assembly and association, that puts me on the "left". However, I also believe in private ownership of the means of production, in authoritative government, in immigration controls, in autonomous institutions organized around traditional values and customary usage, in a law dedicated to upholding the moral values of the community with whatever severity is required. That puts me on the "right".

Let us change the subject. There is a distinction which is far more important and far more pertinent to our current political situation than that between "left" and "right". This is the distinction between governments which recognize opposition and those which do not. That is the distinction that aligns, for example, Nicaragua with the Soviet Union, and Turkey with the West. For us, the major purpose of politics is to make opposition possible, by providing the framework within which it can be accommodated and where possible resolved. For them, the first purpose of politics is to root out opposition and silence it, to achieve that "unity about a common purpose" which is equally the goal of fascism and communism, and which sets each movement at variance, not only with constitutional government, but also with itself.



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THE LEBANESE RATCHET

The conflict in Lebanon escalated dangerously during the week-end. For the first time United States and Syrian forces were involved directly in hostilities with each other. On Saturday, American reconnaissance planes encountered a heavy barrage of anti-aircraft fire from Syrian positions. On Sunday US naval aircraft attacked the Syrian anti-aircraft batteries. Two were shot down, and one of the pilots is now a prisoner in Syrian hands. On Sunday night another eight US Marines were killed in Beirut by shells fired by Syria's Druze allies, and US ships replied by shelling Druze positions.

American spokesmen were saying yesterday that it was up to Syria's President Assad how far the violence went. One must hope that means they were prepared to regard the score as even, after Sunday's exchanges, and not to embark on further retaliation without further provocation. Both sides should by now have demonstrated to each other their unwillingness to be driven from their present positions by force. There should now be a further attempt at a negotiated solution.

The Americans believe they have strengthened their negotiating position by reaching last week's strategic cooperation agreement with Israel, since the threat of Israel fighting an all-out war against Syria in Lebanon is more credible than the threat of the United States doing so. But this is questionable. Israel's will and ability to fight when her own security is threatened are not in doubt, but so far neither her leaders nor her people have been convinced that their security depends on evicting the Syrians from Lebanon by force. Israel may share the broad aims of American policy in Lebanon, but

a threat to use Israeli force to achieve those aims, or to defend American troops, is not obviously more credible than threat to use American force.

At the moment the Americans are trying to have it both ways. They want Syria to believe that they have Israeli force at their disposal, and at the same time they want the rest of us to believe that they are acting impartially and independently in Lebanon and not colluding with Israel. President Reagan may indeed be telling the truth when he says that he was not informed or consulted about the Israeli air strikes on Saturday; but, given that these occurred just after Mr Shamir got back from Washington with the strategic cooperation agreement in his pocket, Mr Reagan can hardly be surprised if his remarks encountered widespread disbelief.

The avowed purpose of the American military presence in Lebanon is to help the Lebanese government recover full sovereignty over Lebanese territory and secure the withdrawal of all foreign forces. By now it is generally recognized that this task is inseparable from the settlement of political differences among Lebanese factions. A month ago a conference assembled in Geneva for this purpose and agreed, surprisingly quickly, that the immediate stumbling-block was the Israeli-Lebanese accord of May 17. The Syrians wanted it torn up, the Israelis wanted it applied. Neither could be satisfied without ensuring that the other would remain in occupation of the country.

Accordingly, the conference agreed on a compromise of the ragged but practical type which used to keep Lebanon going in the old days and might yet get it going again if outsiders would

give it half a chance. The agreement would be neither abrogated nor ratified as it stood. Instead, President Gemayel was deputised to seek outside help in getting it revised so as to remove the political clauses which the Syrians most object to while ensuring that Israel got what it most wants: security for its northern border.

The Syrians signalled their interest in this compromise. Preparations had been made to receive President Gemayel in Damascus with considerable ceremony when President Assad's appendix - or, as many believe, some other part of his anatomy - intervened. Twice since then he and his foreign minister have used the word "revise" in reference to the May 17 accord. But the Israelis have been less accommodating, insisting on the accord, the whole accord and nothing but the accord. Publicly the Americans have stood by them, and President Gemayel, reaching Washington last week on Mr Shamir's heels, was apparently told that no amendment was possible.

If that is the last word, rather than a hard negotiating position, the chances of the Geneva conference reconvening to any purpose are slim indeed. But the Americans still talk of a negotiated solution. The Syrians have yet to show convincingly that they are genuinely interested in one. When, but only when, they will be up to the Americans to use their new relationship with Israel to insist on a more flexible Israeli attitude.

It is necessary to prove to the Syrians that they cannot have things in Lebanon all their own way. But it is necessary also to convince them that they have something to gain by letting the process of national reconciliation go ahead.

MAKE WAY FOR OTHERS

After all the torrents of words poured out in the controversy over conveyancing, in the form of speeches, diatribes, manifestos, submissions to royal commissions and even counsels' arguments in the lawsuits seeking to protect the solicitors' effective monopoly, the House Buyers Bill appears a remarkably brief and simple document. Mr Austin Mitchell's private member's measure seeks to cut the knot in a mere four pages and six clauses. Given that the sale and purchase of their homes are the largest personal transactions that most people ever undertake, with disastrous consequences if they should go wrong, the Bill may seem almost cursory. That is because cutting a knot is in itself quite a simple thing to do: the Bill leaves to the Secretary of State and the Director General of Fair Trading the details of providing safeguards to the customer. But unless the Bill's promoters can provide clear indications that satisfactory safeguards are feasible, then the knot had better stay tied.

The present Director General has made it clear that he favours radical changes in the solicitors' monopoly, so it appears that he is confident. The central factor in the Bill's proposals is a licensing system to ensure that the conveyancer is covered by effective arrangements guaranteeing that, even if he bungles the

job or is dishonest, his clients may be fully compensated. Solicitors are compulsorily covered by a scheme of this kind. In addition, the Bill contains a number of proposals to speed the process of transfer, and one to enable solicitors to advertise their terms for conveyancing (since the abolition of scale fees, these have diverged widely, and the public have little chance of comparing prices).

The whole process of sale is generally acknowledged to be unnecessarily slow, complicated and costly today. Conveyancing agents claim that they can do the job for half the average price that solicitors charge. The lawyers protest, not without some justice, that individual dilatoriness by solicitors is not one of the most important factors causing delay. They are in a less strong position to claim that their profession has done all it might have done in recent years to press for reforms to improve the process. Even Sir Henry Benson, chairman of the royal commission which reported in 1979 that relaxing present restrictions would be undesirable, told the profession this summer that the lack of progress in pursuing the improvements proposed in his report weakened the profession's case.

The royal commission made curiously heavy weather of the

whole matter. It rejected ending the monopoly partly on the grounds that equivalent safeguards would mean equivalent overheads, so that new competition would not hold down charges. But in fact conveyancing charges do not reflect the associated overheads, for a reason which enables solicitors to claim that the practice works in the public interest. Conveyancing provides on average half of solicitors' incomes - more than that for those who do not practice in lucrative specialist fields. Conveyancing enables the profession to cross-subsidise its other more demanding work. If competition brought charges down to cost, it is claimed legal services in some parts of the country would dwindle, and members of the public in need of them would suffer.

This kind of argument can be a valid defence of a practice in restraint of trade. But the burden of proof lies with the defenders. It has to be shown that it really is in the public interest for house-buyers to subsidise litigants. If it is right to subsidise litigants it seems better that it should be done by means designed to that end, rather than by roundabout methods. If Parliament is satisfied with the proposals to protect the interests of house-buyers, then it would do well to enact the Bill and take the protestations of the solicitors with a pinch of salt.

CHURCH AND NATION IN LITHUANIA

The brutal murder of several priests in El Salvador by political extremists has rightly been condemned throughout the world. Less well publicized is the fate of the Roman Catholic Church in Lithuania, one of the three small Baltic countries which, having won their independence from Russia in 1918, were forcibly incorporated into the USSR in 1940 after Stalin had concluded his notorious pact with Hitler. Father Sigita Tamkevicius went on trial in Vilnius last week, accused of "systematically slandering in his sermons the Soviet political and social system".

In fact his principal offence was that in November 1978 with four other priests he established the Catholic Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights, which has documented the persecution of the church by the atheist regime. The indictment stated that the materials which Father Tamkevicius circulated reached the West and were broadcast back to the USSR by the US financed radio stations Liberty and Free Europe, as well as Radio Vatican. Tass alleges that "foreign special services engaged in subversion against the USSR paid attention to this vain and money-loving man" but the reliable clandestine *Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church* reports that it was the KGB which tried unsuccessfully, on several occa-

sions to recruit him with promises of a good parish and an opportunity to study in Rome.

He was arrested last May after speaking in defence of Father Alfonsas Svarinskas, a fellow member of the Catholic Committee who was sentenced after a three-day trial to seven years in strict regime labour camp plus three years' internal exile; he had already been sentenced to ten years in 1946 for links with "nationalist bandits". Those protesting outside the court - and casual passers-by who happened to be on Lenin Avenue - were removed by police.

Hundreds of Lithuanian priests have suffered persecution and imprisonment by the Soviet authorities, who regard the church as providing leadership for a mass opposition which combines religious faith and nationalism in a powerful rejection of Moscow-imposed atheist rule. Some 50,000 Lithuanians risked family and career by appealing to the government to drop criminal proceedings against Father Svarinskas. Those petitions which reach the West expose as a myth the Soviet propaganda that the Baltic countries are content to be part of the USSR. One protest petition recently submitted by Lithuanians to Moscow carried 148,000 signatures.

Father Bronius Laurinavicius, known for his courageous letter sent to the Soviet leadership in

October 1977 in which he condemned enforced atheism and Russification, was a member of the Lithuanian group for monitoring the observance of the Helsinki agreements. On 21 November 1981 the local party newspaper *Tiesa* published a virulent attack on him; four days later he was killed by a truck on a Vilnius street. Eyewitnesses reported that he had been pushed in front of the lorry. The Chronicle claims that he was murdered by KGB agents, and reports also the deaths of two other priests, officially said to have been killed in the course of "robberies". Yet nothing was stolen.

In April of this year Vatican Radio broadcast the prayer of Pope John Paul II that the "Lithuanian nation should be able to express its faith in total religious freedom". In July President Reagan issued a statement which was officially delivered to the Secretary General of the United Nations; it cited Resolution 1541 of the General Assembly, dealing with self-determination, and upheld the right repeatedly demanded by the Baltic peoples that they be allowed to decide their own political status under the auspices of the UN. Britain too refuses *de jure* recognition to Soviet rule in the Baltic states, which should be regarded as a test for Moscow's good faith in UN negotiations over Afghanistan and other trouble spots.

Doubts about the polygraph test

From the General Secretary of the Society of Civil and Public Servants

Sir, Your editorial, "Protecting the fourth arm" (November 30) presents a well balanced review of the arguments for and against the use of the polygraph as a security screening device in the Civil Service.

You conclude, however, that because of the introduction of the polygraph the controllers of the Russian Secret Service will find it "just that bit more difficult to place and run agents in Whitehall". This conclusion is, I believe, dangerously wrong.

The Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) of the United States Congress has just published a review of polygraph screening. In addition to the general conclusion that the available research evidence does not establish the scientific validity of the polygraph test for personnel security screening, the OTA makes two specific points.

The first is that there is evidence to suggest that counter-measures can be used by trained spies to beat polygraph screening. Because there will be a temptation to regard someone who passes a polygraph test as one hundred per cent safe, the test could lead to a completely false sense of security.

The second is that because the polygraph test's inaccuracy leads to many perfectly innocent subjects being wrongly suspected, this will result in the security investigating officers spending valuable time in following up false leads.

Far from making it more difficult for spies to penetrate GCHQ, M15 and M16, the introduction of polygraph screening may therefore cause a misdirection of the already overstretched resources of the security agencies. At the same time, taking and passing a polygraph test could well become the spy's ticket to a successful Civil Service career.

Yours faithfully,
GERRY GILLMAN,
General Secretary,
Society of Civil and Public Servants,
124/130 Southwark Street, SE1,
November 30.

Brain drain

From Professor J. F. Richardson

Sir, Your report (November 25) that the University Grants Committee has now run out of money for new developments because of the high cost of compensating university teachers who have taken early retirement highlights the sheer stupidity of the present Government's policy towards higher education.

This is a microcosm of its whole economic policy; it is better to pay out substantial sums to enable people to do nothing, rather than a little more to get a useful job done. Yours faithfully,
J. F. RICHARDSON,
University College of Swansea,
Department of Chemical Engineering,
Singleton Park,
Swansea,
December 1.

Importance of Delhi

From Sir Fraser Noble

Sir, In your editorial (Bridge-building in Delhi, November 22) you speculate on the reasons for the continuing existence of this curious, yet increasingly important institution, the Commonwealth. You mention the Sovereign and the legacy of British law and democratic practice.

It is strange that you do not also emphasize the influence of the British system of higher education, as the symbol of which in this context I would choose the Association of Commonwealth Universities. Anyone who has observed the impact of its work will appreciate a very good practical reason for the sturdy good health of the association of Commonwealth nations.

With the general trend of your comments I am in warm agreement - not least with your hopes for the return of Pakistan to the fellowship.

Yours faithfully,
FRASER NOBLE,
Hedgerley,
Victoria Street,
Nairn,
November 22.

Oxford admissions

From Professor Ronald Mellor

Sir, Professor Lloyd-Jones has long regarded it as his pastoral duty to explain America to the British and Britain to Americans. I recall his letter to the *New York Times* in summer, 1980, in which he assured his readers that European intellectuals had the highest regard for the mental capacities of candidate Reagan.

Now, in a recent letter (November 14) concerning new admissions procedures at Oxford, he alludes to the "American experience" of a decline in standards following the abolition of entrance examinations and their replacement by national tests.

I am afraid the Regius Professor is once again mistaken. No such examinations have been administered by individual American universities since 1950, in many cases never. And in the pre-war era there were little colleges and universities; those who could pay the fees were usually admitted.

Mr Lloyd-Jones's aversion to the liberalism of the 1960s and to attempts to provide "social justice" (his emphasis) has blinded him to the fact which any classical scholar should know: most Golden Ages exist only in the eye of the beholder.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD MELLOR,
The Study Center of the University of California, United Kingdom and Ireland,
21 Stratton Ground, SW1,
November 18.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Research into examination results

From the President of the National Association of Head Teachers and the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers

Sir, Your comments on comprehensive education and the Department of Education and Science (leading article, December 1) are a little less than fair and considerably less so than we would expect from *The Times*.

It is for the Secretary of State to speak up for his staff, given the constitutional limitation on their freedom to respond to public criticism. We would hope that he does so with alacrity. We say this not because we agree with all that the department says and does, but because we believe that public servants should not be pilloried without a proper defence by their accountable political head.

Your leader follows very similar lines to an article by Baroness Cox and Dr John Marks, of the National Council for Educational Standards (*The Times*, November 7), rather gratuitously headed, "Beware the classroom sneaks". You share with them a view of the department which does not accord with our experience over very many years and we are at a loss to understand why this vituperation is taking place.

It is perfectly understandable, of course, that Baroness Cox and Dr Marks should feel disappointed, for the Secretary of State has refused them public funding for research into examination results. Disappointed they might be, but they can scarcely be surprised given the welter of published criticisms of their work and the very pertinent observations on it made by the head of the DES statistics branch - details of which have now been released by the Secretary of State.

The reason why the DES has been involved in the work of the NCES is because that body sought public funding and has, therefore, very properly had its work scrutinised by statisticians within the department.

The result of that scrutiny has apparently satisfied the Secretary of State for in rejecting the NCES funding application he said:

I have decided for the time being not to commit further public funds to work in the area of comparative statistical analyses of the performance (by reference to public examination results) of different types of school and different types of school system. I need time to study the methodological state of the art before I can make a sufficiently confident judgment about which questions are researchable and, most important for me, answerable in a way which will be of practical assistance to the holder of my office in exercising his responsibilities.

The repeated and, to date, unanswered criticisms of a wide range of educational researchers.

In Central America

From Dr Victor Bulmer-Thomas

Sir, The interest in and concern for Central America expressed by three leading politicians such as Healey, Owen and Steel (November 30) is welcome indeed. Their support, however, for the Contadora group's proposals requires some qualifications, since the impression is given that United States' backing for the proposals would lower regional tensions considerably.

The experience of the first 18 months after the fall of Somoza suggests that the USA could live with a left-wing, even Marxist, regime in Nicaragua. What the present US Administration appears unable to accept is the possible combination of a Sandinista government in Nicaragua and a guerrilla victory in El Salvador; their reasons for "drawing the line" in El Salvador are complex but for present purposes can be taken as given.

The Contadora group consists of three countries (Panama, Colombia and Venezuela) which strongly support US-Sandinista peace negotiations in El Salvador and one country (Mexico) which regards the revolutionary opposition (FDR) as a representative political force. The Mexican government, however, has back-pedalled considerably on the FDR question since the election as president of Miguel de la Madrid. Furthermore, Venezuela is widely suspected of having trained Salvadoran

troops in counter-insurgency techniques and the Colombian government is known to fear the consequences of a guerrilla victory in El Salvador on its own fragile democracy.

It is most improbable, therefore, that the Contadora group would preside over a negotiating process in Central America leading to an FDR victory. For that reason, US support for the group's proposals should not be regarded as a test of new US initiatives towards Central America; indeed, Richard Stone, President Reagan's roving ambassador in Central America, spoke in very favourable terms of the Contadora group's proposals last month.

In the longer run, the Contadora group may well have a role to play in reducing regional tensions. In the short run, however, the highest priority must be given to ending the war of attrition against the Sandinista government. Even if implemented, the Contadora group's proposals would not necessarily curb the activities of the Nicaraguan "contras". That task can only be achieved through concerted pressure by US and international public opinion on Congress and the Reagan Administration.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR BULMER-THOMAS,
Queen Mary College,
University of London,
Department of Economics,
Mile End Road, E1,
December 1.

The current situation is that, at a meeting on November 23, the chief DES statistician, Mr Wakefield, and his colleagues admitted that they had been in error in their earlier assessment of the NCES research. The resulting unprecedented statement from the DES on November 28 makes it clear that, contrary to some press reports, the DES does not regard our research as "seriously flawed" and that the DES welcomes the pioneering work on examination results undertaken by NCES and the advice given by us to parents and others on how to interpret examination results.

The letter containing the criticisms to which Mr Radice refers was written more than a month before the DES statement and has been superseded by it.

It would be helpful if the Chief Opposition spokesman on education would ensure that his statements do not confuse issues by putting events out of sequence.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MARKS,
National Council for Educational Standards,
3 Arnelan House,
Slough Lane,
Kingsbury, NW9,
December 3.

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Yours faithfully,
VICTOR BULMER-THOMAS,
Queen Mary College,
University of London,
Department of Economics,
Mile End Road, E1,
December 1.

Way of the Cross

From Prebendary J. C. de la T. Davies

Sir, Thank you for printing a large extract from the Archbishop of York's Entombment sermon and for your provocative leading article, "The way of the Cross" (November 21). I rise to the bait.

Jesus commanded us to express our faith in two ways, saying: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbour as yourself."

The private love of God was well expressed in your leader; the public aspect of it Jesus taught by example. We read in Luke, ch 4, v 16, that he went to the Synagogue on the Sabbath day as he regularly did. The public expression of our love for God is feeble today, the Archbishop was right to emphasise its importance.

Our love for our neighbours can be expressed by personal compassionate help for somebody living within walking distance. Good King Wenceslas knew that. It is the private aspect of love for our neighbour. But today all human beings are neighbours.

King Alfred the Great lived in roughly the same era as St Wenceslas. If someone had told him that one of his descendants would present a high honour to an Albanian lady in India and that the ceremony would be watched by people in his Winchester the suggestion would have been beyond fantastic; it would have been incomprehensible.

Taking the place of the GLC

From Mr I. G. Murray

Sir, In its haste to abolish the GLC the Government is surely in danger of throwing out a large number of babies with the bathwater and not only the Historic Buildings Division.

Some unitary form of administration which reflects London's position as a capital city with interests beyond those of its constituent boroughs is essential and I would therefore support Mr Wilkinson and Mr Taylor (December 1) in urging the formation of a statutory body of elected members nominated by the boroughs with responsibilities for services essential to London as a whole.

May I, however, also draw attention to one institution of London-wide significance which ought to survive virtually in its present form, namely the Greater London Record Office Reference in the White Paper is so brief and non-committal ("special provisions will be made") as to suggest that the Government is hardly aware of its existence, let alone its present functions.

The GLRO is one of the country's major archive repositories, with an enormous fund of experience and expertise, and has in addition recently received major capital investment in the form of new premises and equipment. As well as the records of the old London and Middlesex County Councils and their predecessors, it contains those of statutory bodies within the Greater London area and other records of major importance.

It is thus the primary record office for London as a whole, widely used by students and researchers from all over the world and familiar to all those concerned with the history of London.

For these reasons, its break-up would be ill-advised to say the least and the distribution of its contents amongst other offices, as the authors of the White Paper may have in mind, widely impracticable from every point of view. Who, in any case, is going to look after the records produced by the GLC itself and those of the 15 joint boards and committees which are apparently going to replace it?

I hope very much that the Government will reflect seriously upon this issue, as indeed they should upon many other aspects of their plans for London.

Yours faithfully,
I. G. MURRAY,
11 Coolhurst Road, N8,
December 3.

House Buyers Bill

From Mr R. H. Hammond
Sir, I refer to the excellent suggestion by Mr John Wilkinson, MP, and Mr Cyril Taylor in their letter to *The Times* (December 1) that the GLC should be replaced by a statutory London Boroughs Forum to take over most of its functions, having power to levy a rate precept and composed of representatives chosen by the London boroughs from amongst their councillors.

But why not call the new authority the Greater London Council and provide for direct representation of, and accountability to, the electorate?

Yours faithfully,
R. H. HAMMOND,
Sandwichwood,
4 Margards Lane,
Church Hill,
Verwood,
Wimborne, Dorset.

Children's families

From the Dean of Durham
Sir, I have a hunch that two-parent families can contribute more, humanly speaking, to the nurture of children than one-parent families, not because two can do the same job more efficiently than one, but because a close, caring and creative relationship between father and mother will provide a growing child with the best resource and example for learning to make similar relationships in later life.

However, Penny Ferrick refers in her article "How the other half lives" (November 21), to research carried out by the National Council for One Parent Families, according to which "there is no evidence at all to show that a child being brought up by a lone parent is less able to grow up into a whole person than one from a two-parent family".

On the other hand, only a few pages earlier in an article "Divorce in Britain", John Witherow informs us that "American research has found that as a result [of their parents' separation] younger children are likely to have a greater dependence on the mother, and older ones often show signs of withdrawal and aggression".

Is my "hunch" a reliable kind of commonsense intuition, or is it merely residual dogmatic prejudice? And how am I to know?

Yours faithfully,
PETER BAELZ,
The Deanery,
Durham,
November 21.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Sterling bows to the almighty dollar

It would be true to say that the pound yesterday fell to its lowest level yet against the dollar when it broke through \$1.45 for the first time. It would be more meaningful to say that the dollar reached a record against the pound, for there was no noticeable weakness of sterling against other currencies.

How far the dollar's apparently absurd strength is due to pronouncements in Washington is, to say the least, unclear. But there was certainly plenty of ammunition yesterday for dollar apologists.

The most intriguing was the latest twist in the saga of Mr Martin Feldstein, the chairman of the President's council of economic advisors and more particularly, the likelihood of his remaining in that position.

Last week, there were signs of growing pressure on Mr Feldstein to resign over his continued insistence that higher taxes were needed to restrain large-scale federal budget deficits if they are not to extend almost indefinitely into the future.

Mr Larry Speakes, the chief White House spokesman, went out of his way to isolate Mr Feldstein in the most sneering, smearing fashion (his manner, though not his message apparently offending President Reagan).

Yesterday, Mr Feldstein struck back. He told a suitably dry conference of the American Enterprise Institute that he intended to remain in the Administration. Admittedly, his tone was conciliatory, emphasizing his broad agreement with the President's economic and defence policies and his budget programme.

But he also made it clear that he does not think budget deficits are likely to come under control without tax rises and notably without the contingency tax which was contained in the President's original budget message last January and seems likely to be repeated this time.

Despite the overt accord, Mr Feldstein's presence could lead to a continuing embarrassing argument within the Administration during election year. President Reagan must also be thinking that it might cause even more embarrassment to sack Mr Feldstein.

The upshot is that the Administration will be even more eager in the months to come to stress commitment to sound monetary and fiscal policies.

If nothing happens on the budget front,

that will give greater weight to the argument of those looking for firm interest rates - the present secret of dollar strength in the markets. Yesterday, the influential Mr Henry Kaufman of Salomon Brothers gave a warning of "an extraordinary flaring of interest rates" that will cut economic expansion short if no budget action is taken. And the US Conference Board, a forum of senior economists, said that federal deficits on the present scale threaten to rekindle inflation and boost interest rates beyond 1984.

The ensuing dollar strength - last night's trade weighted index reached 129.7, the highest since August - is far from being a purely American affair. Europe still has to face the trade-off between the benefits of a high dollar and the continuance of high real interest rates that cast shadows over the next phase of recovery.

Not surprisingly, London markets spied smoothing operations by the Bank of England as the pound slid at one point to \$1.4443 yesterday. And British money rates rose by up to one eighth per cent at the longer end of the market.

Feldstein in office, but without influence. Is not necessarily helpful.

There is little else the Bank of England can do, or is even so disposed to attempt, as the pound slithers toward \$1.40. In the present political and economic climate, it will not advocate higher interest rates and it would be costly folly to try to support sterling in the foreign exchange market.

The Bank can take comfort in the greater stability of the trade-weighted index and the knowledge that the mark, in international eyes, is more suspect than sterling. Americans have fallen out of love with the mark.

The Bank also subscribes to the conventional wisdom that the dollar is overvalued and that this is not something that can last. The unanswered, because unanswerable, questions are: what will bring about the dollar's downfall? and when?

Arguably if and when the turn does come, the fall will be fast and brutal, with the dollar losing say a fifth of its foreign exchange value.

But for the moment the dollar seems to be an uncertain and troubled world the one safe haven.

P & O set to sell bank

Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company is likely to sell its wholly-owned banking subsidiary, TCB, soon. Rumours that P & O was thinking of such a move have grown since European Ferries decided to take advantage of the increasing interest shown by leading institutions in banks and stockbrokers, and put up for sale its Singer & Friedlander banking subsidiary.

Mr Jeffrey Sterling, chairman at P & O, confirmed that "it is true several approaches have been made and we are now seriously considering the disposal of it."

P & O acquired TCB in 1974 when it took over the Bovis construction group. At the time, TCB was known as Twentieth Century Banking and had incurred considerable losses. Since then the bank has grown. Pre-tax

profits for 1982 rose from £3.7m to £5.05m and in the first-half of the current year exceeded £3m. In excess of £6m is expected for the year.

Over the last few years, TCB has shown a compound growth rate of more than 40 per cent per annum. Taking into consideration the tax advantages still accruing to it, the asking price is likely to be around £60m.

Mr Sterling refused to comment on the price being offered or to name the potential suitors.

The proceeds of such a sale would prove beneficial to P & O's bid defences against an unwelcome, revived offer from Trafalgar House. Mr Nigel Brookes is not interested in P & O's banking subsidiary. But he like Mr Sterling, can see the advantage of £60m in reducing P & O's net debt of about £250m.

Modest rise in wholesale prices lifts inflation hope

By Frances Williams
Economics Correspondent

The prices charged by industry at the factory gate are still rising only modestly despite a more rapid increase in the cost of its fuel and raw materials, boosting government hopes that inflation may peak at no more than about 5.5 per cent next spring.

Prices of manufactured goods leaving the factories rose by 0.4 per cent last month, compared with an 0.5 per cent increase in October, though the annual rate edged up from 5.5 to 5.7 per cent.

Output prices have been rising at an annual rate of about 5.5 per cent for most of this year despite an acceleration in the cost of basic commodities. Input costs rose by 1.2 per cent last month, after a 0.4 per cent fall in October, as lower prices for petroleum products were outweighed by higher prices for food materials and increased electricity costs, due to the

RETAIL SALES AND CREDIT

	Sales by volume (1978=100)	New credit extended (£m)
1981	105.5	7,797
1982	108.2	9,010
1983 Q1	111.1	2,489
Q2	113.6	2,488
Q3	114.9	2,008
1983 Q4	112.8	837
Sept	117.3	889
Oct	115.2	856

Source: Department of Trade and Industry

MANUFACTURING PRODUCER PRICES

	Output prices (home)	Materials and fuels prices
1982 Q3	118.7	115.4
Q4	120.1	119.4
1983 Q1	121.8	124.6
Q2	124.2	124.6
Q3	125.1 (prov)	124.8
1983 Sept	125.7 (prov)	126.5
Oct	126.3	126.1
Nov	126.8	127.6

Source: Department of Trade and Industry

usual seasonal increase in peak-time use.

But an even steeper rise in input prices at the same time last year led to a drop in the 12-month rate in November. It fell to 7.2 per cent from 8.2 per cent in the previous month and a peak of 9.6 per cent in September.

Industry has been able to absorb higher charges for basic materials because labour costs - which represent 60 to 70 per

cent of total costs - have been rising only slowly, helped by a rapid improvement in productivity. As a result companies have been able to expand profits without a steep increase in prices.

But there is little sign yet of any deceleration in the underlying trend of inflation which the Chancellor expects. The Treasury is predicting that inflation will fall to 4.5 per cent at the end of next year, after

peaking at about 5.5 per cent in the spring. This forecast depends on a further slowdown in the rate at which unit labour costs are rising - which means smaller pay settlements and continued strong productivity growth.

World recovery, by contrast, is expected to boost commodity prices, and this trend may be exacerbated by the pound's continuing weakness against the dollar, in which most commodities are priced. World commodity prices have jumped 30 per cent in sterling terms in a year.

Most outside forecasters expect inflation at the end of next year to be from 5 to 7.5 per cent.

Retail sales fell back in October from exceptionally high September levels, final figures from the Trade and Industry Department confirmed yesterday. But trade in the latest three months was 1 per cent up on the previous three months and 5.5 per cent above the level a year earlier.

Allianz in pledge to top BAT

By Jeremy Warner

Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance company, yesterday promised to top BAT Industries' £914m bid for Eagle Star. But it stopped short of naming its price and its statement caused confusion in the stock market where an Allianz bid of £1bn had been expected.

Eagle Star has agreed to meet representatives of Allianz on Thursday to discuss the possibility of a recommended offer at the higher price. But last night the two seemed as far apart as ever.

Sir Denis Mountain, the Eagle Star chairman, condemned Allianz's statement as perpetuating the uncertainty to which his shareholders were being subjected. "I do not see what can usefully be discussed on Thursday since they are not saying how much they are prepared to offer," he said.

The Allianz statement was vetted by the City Takeover Panel before it was issued and Eagle Star has decided against lodging a formal complaint with the Panel despite doubts about whether the contents breached the takeover code. This normally requires a firm commitment to a particular price in a bid statement.

Eagle Star's share price fell 12p to 68p but later recovered to close 1p up on the day at 70p. This compares with the 700p a share BAT is offering and which has the backing of the Eagle Star board.

BAT said it did not feel it was appropriate to comment on Allianz's latest move.

Allianz is hoping for a wide-ranging discussion at Thursday's meeting where it will be represented by Dr M Beirich, its finance director, and D von der Burg, the director of overseas operations.

It hopes to examine future working relationships, to review of the alternatives to offering cash, and to discuss capital reorganization of Eagle to facilitate the bid and appropriate assurances regarding the Eagle Star group, its employees and policyholders.

Allianz has ruled out the possibility of offering its own shares as part consideration in a new bid. German law prevents it from doing so. But it is considering offering a loan note alternative to its cash bid to help those with capital gains tax problems.

A spokesman for Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank advising Allianz, said that given the size of the takeover battle, the largest yet seen in Britain, it was important to have "elaborate" discussions with Eagle Star of the type which he believed had taken place with the favoured rival contender.

D von der Burg denied there had been pressure from political sources or Munich Re, Allianz's largest shareholder, to secure agreement from the Eagle Star Board before proceeding further.

A visit to London by Mr James Stewart, president of Lone Star, the largest cement maker in the US, has also helped to boost the share prices of British cement makers.

Mr Stewart told an analysts meeting at Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, that prices and the size of the market in the US would move higher next year.

Blue Circle and Rugby Portland have American interests.

The price of cement in Britain is determined by a legally-backed restrictive practice called the common price agreement under which prices are determined by averaging the costs of different producers.

Any increase in prices would put the spotlight onto the cartel under which Britain's big three cement producers operate.



Two people have been named 1983 Businessman of the Year for the first time in the award's 13 years. Mr Peter Thompson (right), chairman and chief executive of the National Freight Consortium, shares the title with Mr Philip Harris, chairman of Harris Queensway, the carpet and DIY company.

Moben managing director resigns

By Philip Robinson

Moben Group, the kitchen, bedroom furniture and double glazing company, yesterday said that its co-founder and managing director, Mr Jim Benham, had resigned on health grounds.

Mr Benham, aged 42, went after a board meeting last Thursday. He takes £25,000 as an ex-gratia payment and has promised not to sell his 8 per cent stake in the company for two years.

Mr Len Morris, Moben chairman and co-founder, said:

"These are straightforward commercial and amicable terms. I'm not prepared to say what is causing Jim's health problems but it is he who has decided he should leave. He is not leaving because of any disaster within the group."

Interim figures released in September showed pretax profits of £1.5m, and Mr Morris expects a further increase in the second half.

But the group will not match some analysts' forecasts of £5m

Opec price 'could fall close to \$16'

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) have been warned that disunity among their members at this week's full ministerial meeting coupled with a mild winter in the US and Western Europe could send oil prices down almost to \$16 a barrel.

The oil industry newsletter *Middle East Economic Survey*, widely regarded as an accurate barometer of Saudi Arabian views, said that oil market operators would base their short term price expectations on what happens at Geneva this week.

The Survey, published in Cyprus, gives a warning that any sign of disarray among the 13-member Opec ministerial council would be interpreted as a threat to prices and could result in destocking.

US rejects Clausen's cash appeal

From Bailey Morris Washington

The Reagan Administration has turned down a 11th hour appeal from Mr A W "Tom" Clausen, President of the World Bank, for an urgently needed increase in the American commitment to subsidize aid for the poorest countries.

Mr Clausen appeared before a Cabinet-level council late last week to appeal for an increase to \$1 billion (£690m) in the American commitment to the International Development Agency (IDA), the bank's soft loan arm.

But despite Mr Clausen's appeal, the Cabinet council voted overwhelmingly against raising the American quota from \$750m a year.

This was a sharp blow to the World Bank which had launched an aggressive campaign to force the United States to raise its contribution to trigger donations from 33 other large donor nations.

Negotiations on a new level of funding for the IDA are due to begin on Friday in Paris at a meeting of deputy finance ministers.

World Bank officials had hoped to go into the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of funds for the IDA with a strong commitment from the US to boost the total level of contributions to an estimated \$12.6 billion over three years.

Without this commitment, officials said it would be difficult to persuade other donor nations to give much more than the restrictive level of \$9 billion over three years.

World Bank officials said this would not be enough to see the poorest countries through the second stage of the debt crisis at a time when new food shortages threaten sub-Saharan Africa and conditions have worsened in other parts of the Third World.

They had hoped, at least, that the Cabinet council would support the position of Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, to increase the commitment to a compromise level of \$900m.

The Cabinet council decision came only a few weeks after a bitter fight in Congress over increased US funding for the International Monetary Fund which was approved only at the last minute at \$8.4 billion.

BP shakes market

BP stunned the equity market yesterday by announcing it has found no oil in the Mukluk project off the north coast of Alaska. Its shares tumbled 24p to 392p, wiping £450m from the group's market value.

Mukluk, the most costly drilling programme yet undertaken in the search for oil, has cost BP more than £200m.

It was enough to send investors running for cover and cut short hopes that the market will continue its record-breaking run.

The FT index closed 0.7 higher at 742.0. Gilts showed losses of up to 50p as the pound hit a new low on the foreign exchange.

Market report, page 24

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 742.0 up 0.7
FT Gilts: 82.98 down
FT All Share: 495.51 down 0.37
Bargains: 20.045
Datastream USM Leaders: Index: 95.93 up 0.02
New York: Dow Jones: Average: 1263.31 up 38.63
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones: Index: 9,445.13 up 38.63
Hongkong: Hang Seng: Index: 863.20 up 7.46
Amsterdam: 158.3 up 0.2
Sydney: AO Index 737.7 up 0.7
Frankfurt: Commerzbank: Index 1026.8 down 4.1
Bremen: General Index: 129.18 up 0.19
Paris: CAC Index 149.9 up 0.3
Zurich: SKA General 305.80 up 1.50

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4480 down 85pts
Index 83.1 up 0.2
DM 3.9750 up 0.0235
FF 12.04 up 0.03
Yen 340.75 down 0.95
Dollar Index 129.7 up 1.1
DM 2.7385 up 0.0255
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4470
Dollar DM 2.7415
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 5.70511
SRE 0.720053

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week fixed 9
3 month Interbank 9/8-9/16
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 5/8-10
3 month DM 6/16-6/16
3 month FF 13/16-12/16
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9/16
Treasury long bond 100/16-101/16

NEWS IN BRIEF

Unmanned oil platform goes ahead

BP has decided to develop the South East Forties oilfield in the North Sea using an unmanned, satellite platform connected to the existing Forties A complex. The project will cost \$450m, \$60m more than its planned seabed production facility to which the Department of Energy was opposed.

A joint study by BP and the Department is to continue. Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, the Energy Minister, welcoming BP's decision, said: "It will enable us to maximise production from the field as economically as possible. The Department is prepared to approve the plan in principle to allow BP to go ahead with design work."

The London-based consortium bank European Brazilian announced yesterday that it had finally committed its \$100m share to the new \$6.5 billion loan to Brazil. Many of the 200 small banks involved in the loan were said to have been reluctant to advance fresh funds after Eurobonds was reported to be holding back.

Ferranti, the electronics group, increased its pretax profits for the six months to end September by 25 per cent to £14.8m. Turnover rose by almost a third to £207m, and the order book stood at £500m, a rise of 17 per cent. An interim dividend of 2.2p net, compared with 1.8p, has been recommended. The shares fell 3p to 631p.

Investors' Notebook, page 23

Dow continues lower

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks continued their moderately lower course in active early trading yesterday.

The Dow-Jones industrial average fell more than 1½ points, while the transportation average was down about five points.

Declines were more than eight-to-five ahead of advances.

Occidental Petroleum was the most active issue, unchanged at 24½. American Telephone and Telegraph when-issued was second, down ¼ to 20½ and AT&T "old" stock was third, down ¼ to 64½.

Telephone was down 1 at 160½. Texas Instruments down ¼ at 138½. International Business Machines was unchanged at 117½. General Electric was down ¼ at 56½. General Motors rose ¼ to 73½. Westinghouse fell ¼ at 53½ and Gulf Oil fell ¼ to 44½.

WALL STREET

Norfolk Southern was unchanged at 62½. Burlington Northern at 99½ was down 2½. Santa Fe at 32½ was down ½. Northwest Air at 47½ was down ½. Carolina Freight at 27½ was down ½. Data General at 32½ was down 2. GTE at 42½ was down 3. Trane at 43 was down 3. Diamond Shamrock at 19½ was down 3½ and Standard Oil-Ohio at 42½ was down 2½.

Mr Arthur D. Ammann of Boettcher saw "very little more down movement. The Federal Reserve will retain a tight policy and I see no major move here. But there is no positive note here that would take the market higher."

"A year end rally remains a possibility, but interest rate concerns are still a problem," he said.

Market leader Blue Circle resisting

Cement prices may rise 5%

By Our Financial Staff

The Cement Makers' Federation is expected to increase the price of cement by about 5 per cent when its council members meet tomorrow.

However, the increase is unlikely to become effective until March at the earliest, because the federation has promised users at least three months notice of a rise in prices.

The share prices of Rugby Portland Cement and Blue Circle have risen over the last two weeks in expectation of the federation's move.

Cement prices have not risen since January last year and any movement in prices is being resisted by Blue Circle which has about 60 per cent of the British market, and has been more conscious than the other two big producers, Rugby and RTZ cement, of the threat

posed by imported cement to its catchment areas.

But Rugby and RTZ are said in the trade and City to have been pushing for a larger increase than 5 per cent, and a compromise is likely unless Blue Circle's view prevails.

The threat from imported cement has receded especially in the south-east where J Murphy, the main importer, decided to close the silos on a Greenwich wharf where it stored cheap West German cement.

Britain's cement imports are now confined to parts of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Humberside.

Blue Circle and RTZ have extended their costly programmes of modernization and rationalization and may need price increases to justify the heavy levels of investment.

Highland Distilleries Continuing success of "The Famous Grouse"

The year turned out to be rather better than expected, with sales up 6.4% to £84,927,000 and profits up some 23% to £7,047,000.

THE FAMOUS GROUSE maintained its premier position in Scotland and increased its sales in England by 18%. It is estimated that the brand now has 10% of the U.K. market. However, the Government's continued discrimination against Scotch Whisky in favour of imported wines gives cause for concern.

Export sales continued to develop recording an increase of some 20% on the previous year.

Sales of mature whiskies were fully maintained but sales of new fillings were down compared with last year. Investment income increased by 22%.

No real upturn in new fillings is seen until possibly late 1985, but sales of mature whisky should be at reasonable levels.

The Famous Grouse brand continues to prosper and it is felt that there is still considerable scope for further development in England, as well as in export markets where strong and sustained efforts continue to be put into the development of the brand.



هكذا من الأصل

Defence Ministry spurns Ada

The Ministry of Defence is to stop financing the development in Britain of the programming language that is due to become a standard requirement for American and Nato military systems from next year.

If the United States Department of Defence sticks to the current deadline for implementing the language, which is called Ada, British contractors could find themselves excluded from US or Nato computer contracts after 1984.

But most observers believe that Ada development has fallen so far behind schedule in the United States too that the DoD will have to relax the timetable for its introduction.

The problem is the unprecedented complexity of Ada and in particular the Ada Programming Support Environment (Apse) - the immense collection of software engineering tools being developed to manage, coordinate and update Ada systems.

A group of British software houses, called the Ada Group (AG), was working on an Apse under the sponsorship of the MoD, British Telecom, GEC and Plessey. (Telecom is involved because it hopes to adopt a standard communications programming language called Cull which could share a support environment with Ada; the hybrid would be called Chapeau.)

The MoD has pulled out because its officials believed that technical problems would force the development costs of

Chapeau far above the £10m originally bargained for, and Telecom followed suit.

A ministry official said that government research funds should not really be used to enable British companies to compete for commercial contracts; private industry ought to be more willing to put up funds, he suggested.

In fact it would be surprising if GEC, Plessey and the major defence software houses were not taking steps to continue developing an Apse in the absence of government financial support, since the alternative would be exclusion from a

series of increasingly detailed specifications, concluding with the definitive version prepared by CII Honeywell Bull of France against international competition.

However, when the software industry on both sides of the Atlantic began work on compilers to make Ada run on actual computers, its size and complexity began to cause problems. The difficulties have been even worse for the software engineers building Apse on both sides of the Atlantic.

The American and Nato defence establishments are far too deeply committed to Ada to think of abandoning the standard now. But it is bound to be phased in more slowly than the DoD planners had originally hoped.

Ada still has many fans in the software industry, who believe that the language will be vindicated. They say that Ada will not only save money but also be more reliable than the confusion of languages it is replacing. During Ada's design phase, high priority was given to making Ada programs easy to read and check.

The critics claim that, on the contrary, Ada is so unwieldy and error-prone as to be less reliable than a mixture of simpler languages. The most alarming statement is attributed to Anna Barron, UK managing director of Immos. His verdict, as quoted in the trade press, was that "Ada is the most likely cause of the Third World War".

THE WEEK

Clive Cookson

large slice of their traditional business.

The language is named after Ada Lovelace (1815-52), who is said by romantic historians, to have been the first computer programmer. Its origin was a DoD decision in 1974 to standardize on a single programming language in place of the 350 different ones used then by different contractors. This software Tower of Babel was costing the Pentagon \$3,500m a year.

No existing language could encompass all the DoD requirements (Coral 66, the real-time standard adopted by the MoD in Britain was too limited). So the Americans went through a

Japanese claim new leap in time cuts

A Japanese hardware manufacturer, NEC Corp, claims to have developed the world's first non-Neumann type ultra-high-speed computer writes Ross Davies.

The "Dream Computer", is said to be capable of computation up to 53 million times a second, between 50 and 100 times faster than state-of-the-art computers. The present generation of computers is based upon a model first developed in the United States in 1945 by J. von Neumann of IBM.

Time-consuming data storing and processing procedures are speeded up in NEC's small computer by automatic data searching and processing systems in two complementary units.

The Japanese further claim that their new computer can cut the time required processing a picture sent from a resource-survey satellite to three and half hours from the usual 200 to 300 hours, and this could be "several minutes" by the time such satellites is launched in 1987.

Convergent Technologies, a leading US supplier of desktop microcomputer systems to other manufacturers, has moved into Europe by signing a major contract with Plessey Office Systems, which could be worth £20m over the next few years. Convergent workstations will be supplied as part of the Plessey IBIS Integrated Business Information System.

"Own label" agreements already exist between Convergent and such computer companies as Burroughs, NCR, Prime and several more. Last year its turnover shot up to \$96.5m, from only \$12.1m in 1981.

Under the latest deal, Plessey will incorporate Convergent work-



And then there's the 48K model...

stations in the recently announced I/O private digital exchange.

A computer design system called MOSS, developed in 1975 by three county councils as an aid to motorway design, has now been enhanced so that users can add far more detail to their drawings, writes Roger Woolnough. Applied Research of Cambridge (ARC) has announced an interface which links its General Drafting System GDS to MOSS.

The county councils which developed MOSS - Durham, Northamptonshire and West Sussex - have been responsible for managing it, although this is soon to be taken over by a commercial company, MOSS System. MOSS has been used extensively in this country and overseas for civil engineering projects such as area surveys and motorway design.

As a result of co-operation between the developers and ARC, the new interface allows an extensive range of detailing to be added to drawings. For example, a designer can introduce the layout of a drainage system, the locations of road signs and lighting units, or concrete slabbing details. Features such as hatching can be used to improve the visual quality of a drawing.

A new dot-matrix printer that offers the option of printing the screen display in a "landscape" mode, is available from Technology for Business, which has developed the system that stores the contents of each page and, by using a special print buffer, rotates it through 90 degrees for printing.

With a venture capital investment of more than £300,000, a new company, Interface Network, has launched itself into the competitive retail market. It plans to operate a strictly-controlled franchise operation, selling micros to the business and professional user. The company has been set up by James Minotto, the ex-president of Computeland Europe, and Brian Allmay, ex-MD of Sperrings Computer Shops.

UK Events

BBC Micro User Show, Westminster Exhibition Centre, London, December 9-11

Your Computer Christmas Fair, Wembley Conference Centre, December 15-16

Which Computer? Show, NEC, Birmingham, January 17-20

Northern Home Entertainment Show, Excelsior Hotel, Manchester Airport, January 19-22

Acorn Education Exhibition, Central Hall, Westminster, January 25-27

Statindex 84, Ears Court, London, January 28th-1st February

Communications - A Computer Systems Fair - CABLES LET 84, Pontin's, Prestatyn, Wales, February 2-4

International Home Computers, Heathrow Panta Hotel, February 13-15

Information Technology & Office Automation Exhibition & Conference, Barbican Centre, London, February 21-24

OEM Only Conference, Hilton Hotel, London W1, March 7

Computer Trade Show, Wembley Conference Hall, March 13-15

Essex Apple Village, Festival Hall, Bessiden, Essex, March 25-26

Compiled by Personal Computer News

The serious side

By Geoffrey Ellis

This week we look at new books which cater for the more serious user, either at home, or in business. As usual, there are titles for machines, languages and general applications.

The Commodore 64 bridges the gap between the home and business user, and features in two new titles, The Sensible 64 by David Highmore and Liz Page, and Basic Subroutines for Commodore Computers from Eddie Adams. The former offers easy access to topics such as user-defined graphics, function keys, and the elusive sprite effects. The other title is in fact, no more than a compendium of useful routines for CBM machines, including the 64.

The prestige present 'this Christmas for the jet-setting business executive' must be a hand-held computer. The recipient of the Epson HX20 should also be given a copy of Getting Started with the Epson HX20, by Stan Corlett and John Cain. It is aimed at the beginner, and after sections on setting up the machine, takes the owner through the various functions. By the end of the book the new user should be in a position to not only operate, but program his machine.

A substantial volume dealing with Basic, by Brian Walsh of Liverpool University, Proper Basic, moves from introductory pieces, through the intermediate section dealing with strings and arrays and the use of modular programming. It ends with a comprehensive advanced section on graphics, matrix handling, use of files, and a useful section of appendices.

Dr M. A. Bramer, a distinguished figure in the field of

Artificial Intelligence, edits an in-depth study of games Computer Game Playing. In the introduction, Dr Bramer makes the point that computer games are one of the oldest and most successful manifestations of AI, with a paper on chess, dating back to 1950.

In his book he has pulled together a collection of essays which must be regarded as representing "the state of the Art" in their fields.

BOOKS

Two remaining titles deal with languages, LISP and Pascal. Pascal programs for Business by Tom Swan was developed on the Apple II computer with UCSD Pascal system, and apart from covering the normal utilities, business graphics, word processing and financial modelling, also contains a section of routines common to many of the applications.

Gillian Cattell and Arthur Norman have written LISP on the BBC micro which provides a useful primer to those seeking to advance from Basic to the more sophisticated atmosphere of LISP, a language widely used in AI applications.

The Sensible 64, (Micro Books) £5.5; Basic Subroutines for Commodore Computers (Wiley) £10.50; Getting Started with the Epson HX20, (Phoenix) £5.95; Proper Basic, (Wiley) £12.50; Computer Game Playing, (Wiley) £25.00; Pascal systems for business, (Wiley) £15.95; LISP on the BBC Microcomputer, (Acornsoft) £7.50.

Micro-game fever follows the Cube

By Paul Walton

Hungarian teenagers, spurred on by the international success of Rubik's cube, are designing games for the microcomputers which most of them have never even seen - their success has won them all the chance to buy micros in the shops this Christmas.

A competition held in Hungary last year brought in over 30,000 ideas for new computer games, of which a tenth were considered novel enough to warrant commercial exploitation. Twenty of these were so innovative that Commodore (UK) agreed to have them programmed, and now the Budapest-based company behind the scheme is cashing in on all this youthful enthusiasm.



Rubik... the spur

Novotrade is importing the Commodore 64 and possibly also machines from Acorn into Hungary, the first time that micros have legitimately found their way into the eastern bloc. It has also linked up with a British electronics firm, Vulcan, setting up a distributor for its range of games and commercial packages called Andromeda Software.

Mr Gabor Renyi, Novotrade's managing director, explained that most communist countries could not afford to import expensive consumer goods like micros unless they could balance the purchase by exporting software or programming services. He was in London earlier this month (November 14-15) as part of the first ever Hungarian trade delegation to offer its software to the British market.

After Professor Rubik, Erno of the Institute of Architecture in Budapest, made a fortune from sale of the cube which he designed to express simple mathematical concepts, Mr Renyi saw that many Hungarian youngsters were trying to emulate their heroes success.

"Hungarians love puzzles and mathematical conundrums, and Rubik became a bit of a national hero when he was

internationally acclaimed with his cube. The most important thing to remember when designing computer game is that the idea should be a new one - it doesn't matter if you can program or not."

Mr Renyi said that 300 of the ideas submitted in the competition were "novel, if not unique". Commodore (UK) which sponsored the prizes, picked up twenty of the ideas for programming.

Novotrade, which means "selling new technology", gave Hungary a distinct advantage over other Eastern Bloc countries in that it is free to trade in its newly liberalised mixed-market, and has the cash needed to import goods because it is owned by three of the country's largest banks.

Mr Renyi said that in 1982, when the competition was being organized, he also discovered a "quite staggering" black market trade in micros which exists in all the communist countries, at that time against the authorities' wishes.

He said that youngsters, and their reluctant fathers, from the Eastern Bloc countries which border onto Austria converge on the capital Vienna, where most kinds of high technology can be bought and that thousands of micros have been smuggled into Hungary.

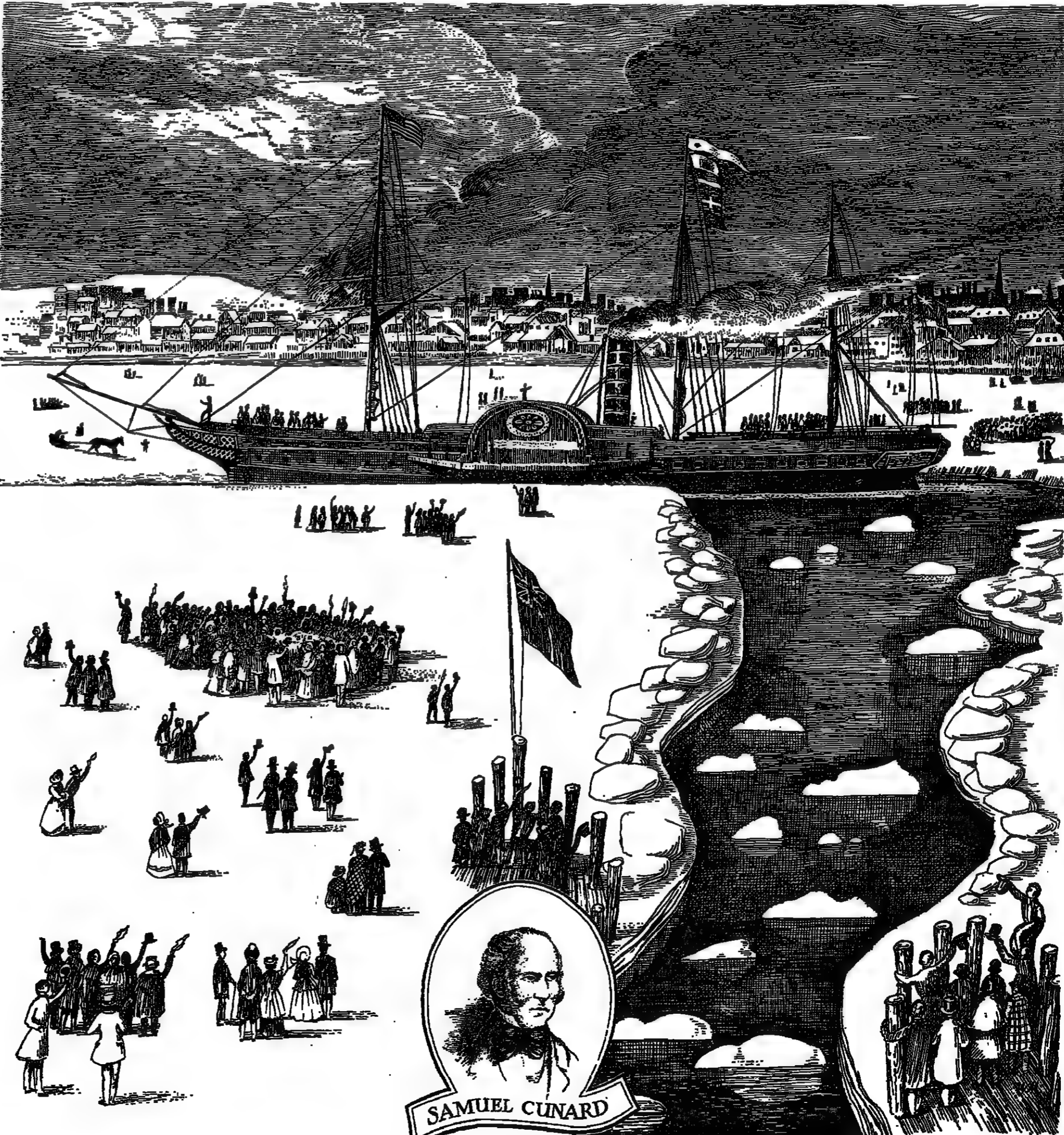
Last Christmas Novotrade began selling its first computer games through the major distributors such as Philips. Commodore the Parker Brothers games-maker, and lately through the Daily Mirror's Mirrorsoft venture. Mr Renyi has spent this year both publicising his computer games and arranging to bring the first micros into Hungary.

This Christmas the first couple of thousand Commodore 64 machines and peripherals - worth just around \$2 million - will be sold in Hungary's main chain of department stores. "I think that they are already sold out with advanced orders", added Mr Renyi.

He puts the thaw in trade relations down to the success of his computer games competition. Like other Hungarians at the software expo he is looking to the "export of brain power", or software, to play a part in the continuing liberalisation of the economy.

Even the secret service man assigned to watch over the Hungarian software expo seemed to spend all his time playing with the video games and trying to look inconspicuous.

The first Cunard steamer, the Britannia, at Boston U.S.A.



SAMUEL CUNARD

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Applications are invited for the above appointment in the Borough Treasurer's Department. The Council is installing a new Sperry System 80 Model B early in 1984. There is an extensive programme of new systems development planned, which will be based on a network of terminals including microprocessors and word processors.

The person appointed will play a key role in this development plan and will act as consultant and adviser for all departments in all areas of computerisation, in addition to being in overall charge of computer development and operations.

The qualities required are self motivation and the ability to motivate others, an extensive background in data processing and preferably working experience in a local authority.

Application forms and job description can be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Council Offices, Farnborough Road, FARNBOROUGH, Hants, Farnborough 14 2222 (ext 211) returnable by 12 December 1983. Interested applicants may telephone the Assistant Borough Treasurer, Mr W Johnson (ext 239) for further information.

Borough of RUSHMOOR

THE TIMES Classroom computer competition/tenth winners

A 12-year-old girl and a boy aged 16 are the winners of The Times Classroom Computer tenth competition. They are Jane White of The Maynard School, Exeter, Devon, and Daniel Hodgson of Lakes School, Troutbeck Bridge, Windermere, Cumbria. The winning decision was made by a tie-break question. The answers were 1) A; 2) B; 3) B; 4) C; 5) A. The winners will both receive an Atari 600XL computer for their schools, and a personal gift of the Times Atlas of World History.



Jane and Daniel come out on top

Jane White, aged 12, has just finished writing an adventure game for her BBC micro which she has had for about a year. Although her aunt teaches computing, she is more interested in maths and chemistry. Jane has gained swimming awards in the Devon county championships and also enjoys hockey. She will be taking a weekly double lesson in computing from next term at her school which is equipped with an RML and some Spectrums. The head, Miss Felicity Mordin, is beginning to use the micro in subjects such as geography and hopes to increase the use of the computers more widely in the school. At present it is restricted to the second year, with free access for the girls of the sixth form. There is, however, a flourishing computer club.

The eight runners-up are Glenn Alford, Bellemoor School, Southampton, Hants; Wendy Stephens, The Royal School, Bath, Avon; Keith Humphreys, Herts & Essex High School, Bishop's Cleeve, Herts; Keith Gilkes, Aylesbury Grammar School, Aylesbury, Bucks; Rachel Battersby, St. Alban's School, Oldham; Iain Hay, St. Andrew's High School, Kirkcaldy, Fife, Scotland; Alice Brown, Oxford High School, Oxford; Jonathan Seaborn-May, Yateley Manor School, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey. Each will receive a Times Atlas.



Those who entered last week should be sure that entries are posted to arrive by first post Tuesday, December 13.

Using a computer to pull in the clients

Few business people not involved in the selling of hard on software are as enthusiastic about the applications of the computer as Mark Weinberg.

Mr Weinberg, who is 51, is the founder and deputy chairman of Hambro Life, Britain's largest unit-linked insurance company writes Ross Davies.

He is putting the computer to work at Hambro Life not only to speed up his business but as a marketing tool — as an attraction to potential clients for Hambro's financial services.

Mr Weinberg began his professional life as a barrister. He came to this country from South Africa in the late 1950s to do a research degree on company law. When in the early

1960s he was asked to set up a new life assurance business in this country, Abbey Life, he brought to it a double dose of the outsider's clarity of vision.

He sold off Abbey Life and founded Hambro Life 12 years ago, but now as then he has been in the forefront of innovation and professionalism in the life assurance business.

Hambro Life, whose headquarters is in Mayfair, has administrative offices in Swindon and has long been aware of the contribution to be made by computer applications.

Much of Hambro Life's business comes from people who already hold policies with the company. A recent development of computer services

called the "Prompt" system reminds salespeople and insurance brokers when policies lapse, or when new insurance products become available which might be of interest to existing clients.

The paperwork is speeded along by word-processors and allied office systems which are now used in all departments.

A recent Hambro Life report, however, says, "A new computer system is being implemented to provide the capacity to support the company's growth into the 1980s and beyond."

The detail behind this rather bland statement is still top secret, but it marks the transformation of the computer from

the status of backroom boy to resident attraction.

What is happening is that Hambro Life, having recently acquired a small Mayfair bank, is about to emulate the clearing banks and market a package of what Mr Weinberg calls "integrated personalized financial services".

In essence, Mr Weinberg says, individuals with more money than time or knowledge to handle it well, will be able to call on Hambro Life not just for advice and service on insurance, but for many of the financial services — portfolio management, for instance — that clearer offer, as well as one or two more.

The computer, he says, will help them gain a marketing edge over the clearing banks in a novel way.

Banks, he says, often fail to persuade customers of their banking services to become customers for their non-banking financial services such as those in insurance, unit trusts or hire-purchase.

"We think," said Mr Weinberg, "that is in part due to the absence of an individual contract but in part it's the absence of an integrated computer system, because when you're dealing with different parts of the bank empire (a) you're dealing with a different person, and (b) if you have any relationships with five different parts of the bank you have five different bits of paper."

What he and Hambro Life are planning is to have customers deal with or through one individual but also to receive, with the computer's help, only one "bit of paper."

Hambro Life, he said, is planning a link-up of all its different services. This will give the client "a composite statement of all the different bits and pieces, rather than your getting totally different pieces of paper from totally different people."

This "bit" will take the form of an easy-to-read monthly print-out showing "all the transactions you have had in the month, of whatever kind, and the value of everything you've got within the group."

"The challenge is to make the thing understandable and attractive — that's a real marketing service challenge, if you like."

Talking back is the new way of selling

When the thrill of the arcade games has palled, and the post-Christmas intake of new home computer owners starts to take a long hard look at their new wares and wonder what on earth they are to do with them, I would suggest one answer: become interactive.

Interactivity is what separates the costly business of cable television from its more attractive rival — on the surface anyway — of satellite broadcasting. With the satellite, the transmission is one way — from the broadcaster to your home. Using cable, you can talk back, and that means a new way of selling goods, purchasing and transmitting information, and generally moving even further towards the cashless society.

There are a couple of problems with this theory, not the least being that if you want an interactive system you can still have it with satellite by putting the job down your telephone line.

But I had always thought that this sort of stuff was still firmly in the land of science fiction, and I was wrong. The home computer owner can use interactive technology relatively cheaply and easily through such commonplace machines as the Sinclair Spectrum and the BBC B. And not through cable either, but the more mundane offices of British Telecom.

Micronet is the name of the system run by BT and East Midlands Press, and, if you are looking for a quick guide to the possibilities of home computing, I can think of no better place to start.

In the case of the Sinclair, the link is made through a £99 "modem", unit which, in this case, fits neatly underneath the computer itself and enables it to communicate through the telephone with a number of larger computers. Once you have paid for your modem, you must stump up £1 a week to belong to the system and, if you use it at the busiest times of day, extra fees for computer time, though these can be avoided at night.

BT's videotata system Prestel is instantly available through Micronet, with all its information services and conventional videotata offerings. What makes Micronet unique are the additional services it offers the home computer owner. After keying in one's identification code, one reaches a menu which can take the system into conventional computer magazine reviews of products and industry happenings. Interesting, perhaps, but not overwhelmingly so. Move on a little further into the teletextware section and things become considerably more impressive. Micronet's greatest selling point is its ability to offer software programs directly down the telephone line the

moment you choose them. Once they have arrived, they can be saved in the conventional way, onto tape or disk, and kept for future use just as if they had been bought in a computer store.

Saving software down the phone is relatively easy once you have the knack. There is a vast range of free programs on offer which enable you to get the hang of the thing before moving into the free programs, on subjects like home filing and finance, are as good as the ones which can cost £10 through conventional means.

Because there are no manufacturing costs for Micronet, the price of the sold programs is around 60 per cent of that charged for the same thing in the shops.

Being interactive, Micronet can act as an electronic mailbox for its members. They can post computer queries onto a general noticeboard and hope for answers to be left by other, more knowledgeable, members. A new facility offers the ability to transmit telex messages for 50p a page.

If there is one drawback to what promises to be a most exciting system, it is the small size of Micronet's membership, which, at the moment, stands around the 5,000 mark. That will change as modems appear to link more types of home machine into the system. Until its net is thrown much wider, it will remain very much in the realm of the diehard enthusiast.

HOME USER

David Hewson

On a more prosaic note I have to say that the highways and byways of the Prestel computer have left me disorientated on more than one occasion, flicking through news from the British tourist authority when I should have been searching for new home utility programs.

There are some annoying quirks to the system, most notable of which is the lksome refusal to allow the subscriber to scroll back to the last page. This is forbidden in Micronet, at least it seemed so to me. Tortuous detours through subsidiary menus need to be made to retrieve bits of information which were at hand only a moment ago.

I imagine that such bugs will be cured in time. Micronet is a system which can only get better as the months pass. For what it offers, it seems relatively cheap, though one should always bear in mind the cost of the phone bill in mind. And unlike most computer peripherals, it ought to satisfy a wide range of users.

Careers on computer

By Maggie McLenan

Careers offices throughout the country are being encouraged to computerise details of young people on the government Youth Training Scheme. The Department of Employment has sent a circular to local authorities offering a 50% grant towards the cost of installing a system, providing it is (or is fully compatible with) the 16-bit Comart Communicator range endorsed by the scheme's steering committee.

Two scales of system have been recommended, both based on the CP1542 model: a 5Megabyte version for one-year groups, which would hold a maximum of 1,500 records and a 20Megabyte system capable of storing up to 3,000 records. Careers offices have until October 31 to take advantage of the grants, and Comart has agreed to peg its prices (which have been discounted for the scheme) until then.

Two hundred Comart Communicators have so far been ordered by local authorities, but there may be up to 300 other offices involved eventually. Chairman of the Comart Group, David Broad, estimates that the project may be worth £2 million to his group and is confident that careers offices will not turn to other manufacturers.

"The circular states that other makes will only be considered for a grant if they are fully compatible with the Communicator and if the software will run on our machines without modification," he explained. "Since Comart is providing a combination of the dBase II database and our own standard source programs, it is very unlikely that others will be compatible."

He believes that Comart was successful in being recommended because two thirds of the micros supplied under the scheme for general practitioners were Communicators, and the company had proved that it could support users country-wide.

The Irish Industrial Development Authority will be establishing a National Software Centre in Dublin as a subsidiary organisation to support the continued growth of the software industry in Ireland. The Centre will:

-provide a range of technical

support services for the development of the industry in Ireland

-develop innovative software products in co-operation with software and hardware manufacturing companies

-provide training in advanced

techniques so as to increase the technical capabilities of companies.

It will operate as a private limited company with its own board of directors and will be expected to become self financing.

Managing Director

A Managing Director is now being recruited to establish, develop and manage the National Software Centre. This is a key appointment as the person recruited will have primary responsibility for the launch and operational success of the Centre. To qualify for appointment to this position, you should have an extensive management and technical background in software development in a commercial environment, preferably with international experience.

You should also have a qualification in a relevant discipline and have the necessary drive and vision to build up the Centre to become a key resource in the future development of the software industry in Ireland.

The salary and conditions attached to this position will be negotiable. They will reflect the high calibre of the person sought and the importance of the post.

If you would like more information you can telephone Páid McMenamin.

Executive Director, Irish Industrial Development Authority personally at Dublin (0001) 601520 or forward your Curriculum Vitae to him, marking your envelope 'Personal and Confidential' before 29th December 1983 at Irish Industrial Development Authority, Lansdowne House, Dublin 4, Ireland.

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Confusion on the managers' pay front

Two recent salary surveys of data processing staffs provide cheer for the staff members involved but confusion for managers in trying to settle salary levels.

The best news for staff comes from a survey conducted by the Management Personnel company, a recruitment organisation. Increases over the last year have, in many job categories, been as high as 25 per cent for median salaries.

The median salary for a senior programmer, for instance, is £11,000, according to the survey, a full 35 per cent increase over the median for 1982.

The Computer Users' Year Book does not present such a glowing figure for senior programmers or for the majority of the job titles both surveys have in common.

According to the CUYB the median salary for a senior programmer is £9,500, £1,500 lower than the salary in the Management Personnel survey. The increase over the past year has been nothing like the 35 per cent registered by Management Personnel, the CUYB claims. In fact, it is just over 6.8 per cent.

No doubt staff arguing for a salary increase will choose to base their case on Management Personnel's figure while managers will use the CUYB figures.

JOB SCENE

Richard Sharpe

The differences run through almost all the job categories that the two surveys have in common. In only four categories, systems analyst, operator and data preparation operator, do the surveys agree to within £50. Those medians are £9,500, £5,590 and £4,680, respectively.

According to the CUYB the biggest increases in median salaries over the year have been for data control supervisors whose median has lifted to £6,750. Management Personnel puts this £400 lower.

Management Personnel also says that in one job category, data preparation operator, the median has gone down by 8%. The CUYB survey claims it has gone up by just over 6%. Even if this job category's median salary has not gone down it will have had one of the lowest increases because of the cut-backs in data preparation staff.

Management jobs such as data processing manager and operations manager have fared much better. Data processing managers are paid £15,500 on the median. Management Personnel claims, while the CUYB figure is £13,727, a 9% increase over last year's CUYB survey.

Operations managers have had a 10% increase in their median salary, both surveys agree, but they now put that salary at different levels: the CUYB £10,643 and Management Personnel at £10,000.

The routine programmer gets £7,982, says Management Personnel with the CUYB pitching the median at £7,982.

*Computing Publications, £52.95.

People: Shiraz Virji of Steiger Computers



The world's biggest computer shop

By Roger Woolnough
Shiraz Virji does not do things by halves. He claims that Steiger Computers, on London's North Circular Road, has the biggest computer store in the world. But that's just part of it.

Above the store, two large VAX 11/780 computers sit in air-conditioned splendour. Steiger is offering these for a disaster recovery service - said to be the first for VAX users in Britain. Virji also has software development in his sights, possibly using programmers in India for the labour-intensive activities.

Shiraz Virji was born in India, but then moved with his parents to Africa. There his father built up an import-export

business which the younger Virji eventually joined. Realising that the big opportunities lie in high technology, he came to Britain about two years ago to study the market.

"The idea was to get into some area of the computer industry," he explains. He came up with three possibilities - software, computer retailing, and disaster recovery, which provides a back-up for companies should their own computers break down. "There was some doubt in my mind about which one to go into," he admits. He decided to enter all three.

"The VAX is a machine which is used to develop software for smaller machines," he says. "But software is something which will take off slowly, and through the disaster recovery service the VAX will pay for itself."

In the computer store, Virji already stocks nine different makes of business computer, and is negotiating for more. Another part of the shop offers home computers and games, again with a wide selection.

But the formula is not simply one of bigness. He runs seminars for potential business users, offers technical and application advice, and provides training and familiarisation courses - all free.

"Computers are not a product which sells off the shelf," he says. "People are not going to walk into a shop and say 'Give me a computer'."

Providing all that free service, of course, is not cheap. Nor is it altruistic. "It will increase our turnover to a very high level."

Virji is already talking about opening another VAX disaster recovery centre, even though he has not yet signed up any clients for the first one. "Management is a bit slow at taking decisions," he says, but adds that interest has been "huge" and points out that there are 300 VAX users in Greater London alone. Most of these are totally dependent on their computers.

The computer store is already doing well and the first year's turnover could reach £3 million. Expansion plans include a store in Croydon, another closer to the City and one in Milton Keynes.

Back to the faithful slide

By David Seekings

Until recently, almost all graphic text and statistical speaker support slides were photographs of laboriously prepared artwork. Single slides can be very expensive, especially when colour or special effects are required: prices of £45 or more are not uncommon and, when produced at the very last minute in response to late changes of mind or new information, costs escalate even more.

What is more, artwork for slides invariably takes a long time to prepare and, if the graphic artist is unfamiliar with statistics or misunderstands his or her brief, the results can be disappointing.

Computer graphics - the art (or science?) of generating graphic images by computer - are changing all this. Sophisticated graphics or bar charts, graphs, text, logos and sequences of pictures and special effects can be created in full colour quickly and sometimes very cheaply - and without anything being pre-

pared on an art board.

Few realize that they are already very familiar with computer graphics: the technique is widely used by the BBC and independent television companies for programme trailers and in programmes where statistical information is presented visually.

As a general rule, computer graphics as seen on television represent the sophisticated - and expensive - use of the technique; for example, a 15-second logo sequence for London Weekend Television cost over £15,000 and the price of the most sophisticated sequences can be as high as £2,000 per second.

Fortunately, speaker support slides come at the other end of the cost scale (one production house is already supplying computer graphics slides at around £15 each - a third of the cost of conventional artwork based slides). Slides made from computer graphic images are not only cheaper than slides from conventional artwork, but the presentation tends to be

clearer, more appropriate, and the visual impact correspondingly greater.

"Computer graphics" is the generic term for a process which uses a computer to reproduce letters, figures, logos, symbols and other graphic images on a screen (VDU). The operator can use the computer programme to select whatever images, size, shape, style, colour and background desired.

He or she can experiment with proportions, graph axes and letter styles and sizes. He can enlarge or reduce the image change colours and manipulate shapes to turn, produce a curve or swirl effect (as often seen in TV computer graphic sequences). When the "perfect" combination has been found, the image can be preserved on slide.

A host of computer graphic systems is now available. Some, with comparatively low resolution, can be used with microcomputers such as Apple, IBM or Xerox. At the "bottom end" of the market, picture quality and resolution is hardly better than Preset or the other alpha-

geometric systems used in viewdata (Ceflux and Oracle).

However, most users need - or prefer - a better resolution in order to make the end-image closer to the quality of conventional slides. There are several so called 1000 line computer graphic systems - software which can be used on many computers, including Xerox, Apple II and IBM.

For the technically minded, a "1000 line system" employs approximately 1000 pixels across the top of the screen. A 3:2 screen ratio would contain 660 pixels across and 660 down, giving 650,000 individually addressable bits of picture to manipulate. This is sufficient to produce images of reasonable resolution, although not with well-rounded lettering or smooth curved edges. 1000 line systems are comparatively inexpensive - well under £10,000.

The screen images produced on the cheaper 1000 line systems can be recorded and sent to a specialist for high resolution reproduction. The results are excellent and virtually indistinguishable from slides of conventional artwork; some argue computer graphics are better because more colours can be added without increasing cost - something which is not possible with conventional artwork because of the extra drawing board time involved.

Computer graphics are extremely flexible. Statistical information, in particular, can be put onto slide very easily. Indeed, the speaker can be present as the images are manipulated on the screen and he wishes before making up his mind. In this way, time is saved, information can be more up to date, and subsequent changes can usually be avoided.

Invest - or we'll fall behind

Alan Benjamin looks at the progress since IT Year



Even the most reactionary of business men and public servants know within themselves that information handling is the key to their future competitiveness.

I use the word reactionary to describe a resistance to Information Technology and the priority it receives in their minds. The reasons for resistance are quite well known, consisting of a mixture of fear, distrust and misunderstanding. We should not mock these conditions for they are real enough and basically stem from an education system late in awakening to the new information paradigm.

The important issue is future competitiveness. I confidently assert a direct relationship between the quality of an organisation's information handling and its competitiveness.

We have moved from the information processing past, to the information technology present and now on to the information handling future.

The next generation of business men and public servants will take this technology for granted like electricity, because they will have grown up with it and for them it will be just another tool. But, it will become the most important competitive tool of all because it will reflect man's initiative, creativity, risk taking judgement and imagination.

All these characteristics are present today. Tomorrow the power of information handling systems will add a new dimension to them - and such systems will enhance the human capability. Perhaps some examples of handling information will be useful.

In foreign exchange dealing, financial organizations which can simultaneously monitor prospective deals, model exposures and balance portfolios will gain precious time and knowledge advantages over those who cannot.

Food wholesalers who invite retailers to join electronically their product stock file and delivery schedules through an interactive computer network will gain a sales advantage by offering an integrated purchasing facility.

A manufacturer using an automated plant will be able to have better control production flows, quality and stock levels than his competitors. Market analysis and modelling will give him advance product information which will enable him to time production further.

Hotels with real time systems will be able to market seasonally service and vacancies on the basis of demand rather than guesses and will increase occupancy.

Hospitals with full departmental information systems

The possibilities for improved reliability in products and processes of all kinds increase automatically through the information handling systems used to design, model and test products before they are manufactured or processed. This is another crucial characteristic of competitiveness.

So information handling is the spinal cord of the future business and government department. It will not be available without investment, and the longer the investment is delayed, the wider the gap between organizations with and without modern information handling will become.

The pace of investment is very important. The finance industry is a case in point. Development now taking place in South East Asia in retail banking, point of sale data entry, database intelligence and investment management systems, are ahead of much that is being done in the United Kingdom. Funds will follow service and the technology will enable the customers to go East.

The availability of networking services in the United States has begun an immense growth in the use of personal computers and small business systems. It is becoming normal to integrate external databases into one's own information handling systems.

The investment required to achieve these levels of information handling capability is far more than has ever taken place before. Information handling will become a major budget line in business planning. It will include, inter alia, computing equipment, communications networks, terminals and other peripherals, cabling, external database costs, professional staff, data storage products, telephone networks, the corporate database, software, skill databases and word processors.

At the end of Information Technology Year 1982, market research confirmed a much heightened awareness, indeed a real excitement and a momentum for a quantum leap forward towards information handling.

Is it simply too much to expect radical decision or brave investment in Britain in the 1980's? In Singapore, Korea and Japan it is not only the philosophy which is optimistic and exact like our own, but the accompanying actions which count.

We in Britain toy with our investment at our peril. We shall be outflanked, outgunned, outpace the pace of our investment.

Mr Benjamin was chairman of Information Technology Year 1982.

Young, energetic business orientated Microcomputer specialists

These are the qualities which apply to our client. Established in 1983 with sound financial backing and Central London offices they have already enjoyed considerable success in the field of microcomputer communications. As part of their future growth plans they are looking for two individuals with these same personal qualities that reflect the company image.

Business Project Manager London £15,000 + car
Reporting to the Managing Director, this is a ground floor opportunity for a commercially aware and technically competent computer professional. Very much a co-ordinating role, you'll liaise with manufacturers, software houses, distributors and customer field service in order to ensure smooth running and the achievement of sales and marketing objectives. Ideally aged around 30, with strong team-management skills you should be able to demonstrate an awareness of software techniques on micro or mini.

National Sales Manager London £15,000 + car
Responsible for negotiating all sales and distribution deals throughout the UK, you'll need proven sales experience in a DP related field, preferably micro or communications networks. Aged 25-40, you'll either be in management already and looking for a more progressive working environment, or now set to make the next logical step up from a purely sales role.

For further details and early interview call Noel Price, Director of Recruitment, on 01-278 6426 or 01-286 9417 (7pm-11pm), or write to him with full CV to: ACSIS Inc., 37/39 Bowling Green Lane, London EC1R 6BY.



COMPUTER PERSONNEL VACANCIES

CONSULTANTS C. LONDON TO: £22,000
A prestigious City based software house is currently recruiting D.P. professionals to work at various clients sites. Applicants should possess a good honours degree as well as strong systems experience gained from any hardware/software background, however, preference will be given to candidates with previous software house experience. An excellent salary is offered as well as a company car for senior positions.
REF TA 7008

SYS ANALYST LONDON TO: £15,000
This City based commodity dealer wishes to recruit a Systems Analyst with experience of financial and/or communications applications, especially if it has been gained on DEC hardware. The main work area will be in a development role but other duties will include staff monitoring, system modification and hardware/software appraisal. The company offers a comprehensive benefits package on top of an attractive salary.
REF TJ 7123

GRADUATE ANALYST/PROGRAMMERS C. LONDON £5 - £14,000
Graduates with a degree in any discipline and upward of 18 months commercial computing experience are required by this leading international consultancy. Areas of particular interest are IBM COBOL, Assembler, PL1 and RPG II/III, Hewlett Packard, Burroughs and Tandem, however Programmers and Analysts/Programmers with any hardware/software exp are invited to reply. Successful applicants will be working as Consultants on a wide range of hardware. The positions will be both demanding and rewarding with a certain amount of travel being involved.
REF TS 5749

IBM PROGRAMMER SURREY C: £10,000
Currently vacant is the position of Programmer with a large manufacturing company in Surrey. The position requires the successful applicant to be experienced in specification and writing programs and preferably the implementation of on-line systems using ADS-on-line and IBM, although extensive training will be given. A good standard of education and the potential for management is required. Min 2 yrs COBOL programming background in a commercial environment. IBM mainframe exp is essential and it would be an advantage to have knowledge of MVS and TSO/VS. The benefits include overtime pay, life assurance, sports and social clubs, discounted BUPA and relocation expenses.
REF TP 6976

SIR PROGRAMMER LONDON/SURREY C: £15,000
This small expanding company are seeking a Senior Programmer to become a key member of a new product development team based on UNIX. The applicant should possess extensive experience of systems development on either Micro or Minis plus detailed working knowledge of UNIX and one other operating system. Knowledge of Fortran or C being desirable. As well as a high negotiable salary the company offers a comprehensive benefits package.
REF TJ 7141

PROG/ANAL PRG SURREY TO: £11,500
Due to ongoing development, two vacancies have arisen within this Surrey based services company for Programmer and Analyst/Programmer. Applicants for the position of Programmer should have 2-3 yrs COBOL from an ICL background. Applications include production and commercial. The Analyst/Programmer should have 2-3 yrs COBOL and have the capability to work alone on occasions. Both development and maintenance are involved, with more emphasis on development. Each position offers an excellent benefits package including 5 weeks holiday, pension scheme and staff canteen, with an exciting salary to match.
REF TT 7059

COBOL OR PL1 ANAL/PRG C. LONDON TO: £13,000
A major international oil company are recruiting at Analyst/Programmer level. Applicants will be expected to progress to Project Leaders within 2-3 years and so must be of very high calibre. A programming background of at least 2 years is required, using either COBOL or PL1. Familiarity with CICS or DL1 would be advantageous, although full training will be given where necessary. Salary and benefits are those of a large and respected company.
REF TM 6634

BUSINESS ANALYST WEST LONDON TO: £14,000
An established firm in the manufacturing sector require an Analyst to work on the development of commercial systems. The successful applicant will be working in a large department with other Analysts, and will assume a Business Analyst role. Candidates should be graduates or of graduate calibre, and have worked as an Analyst for 2 years. Experience of IBM hardware would be advantageous, as would familiarity with database techniques and on-line systems (ADABAS and CICS are used). Remuneration is excellent, as are career prospects.
REF TM 6631



THE TIMES

COMPUTER NEWS EDITOR

The computer revolution and the explosion of interest in home computers are mirrored more vividly in *The Times* than in any other National Newspaper.

The success of Computer Horizons and our plans for this weekly section have created a vacancy for a news editor to monitor developments in computing and information technology, handle news, suggest features and deal with correspondence.

Necessary qualifications are: journalistic experience, technical knowledge of computing and familiarity with the computer industry.

Full career details to Managing Editor, The Times Special Reports, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1

DATAPOWER

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

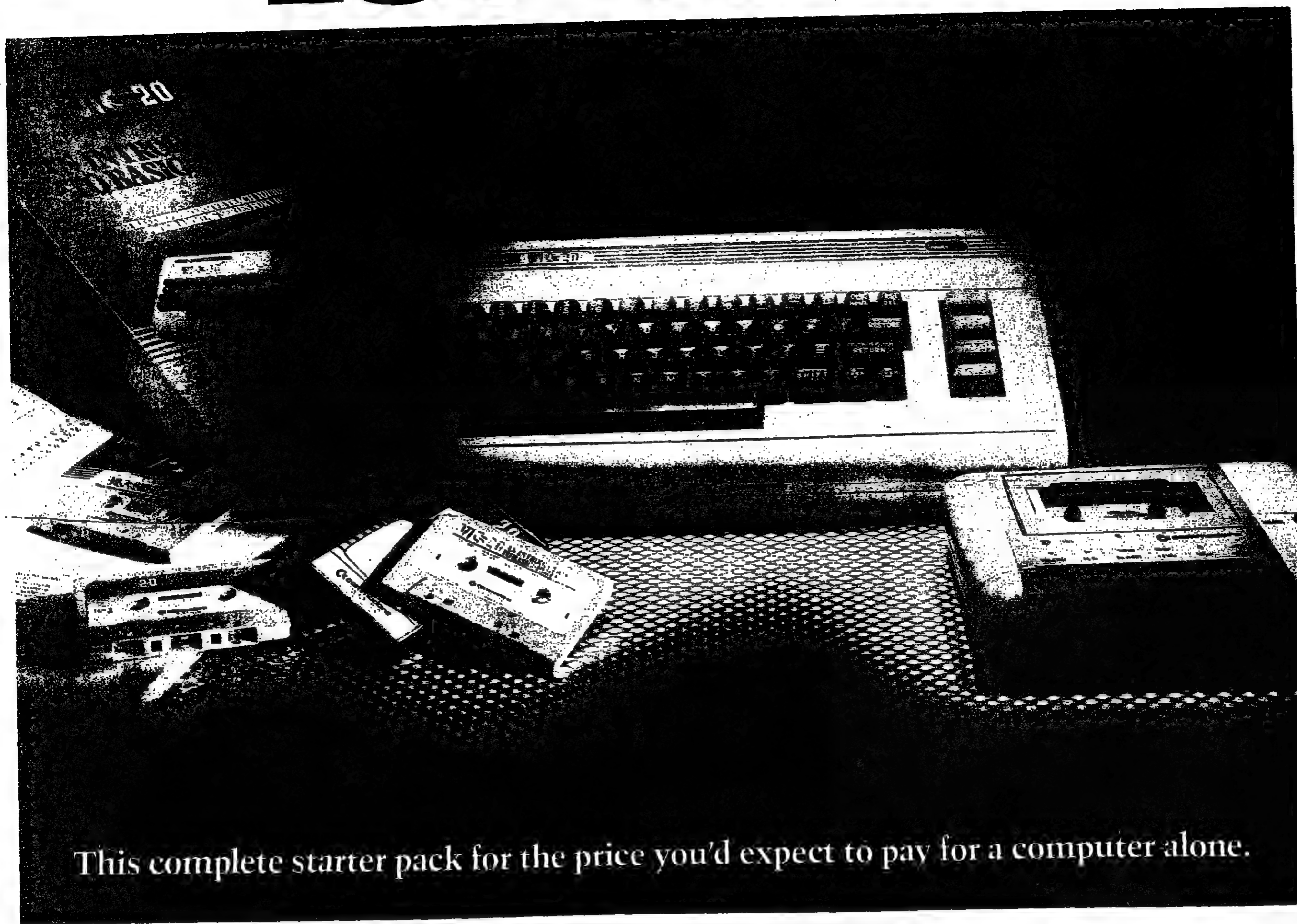
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This complete starter pack for the price you'd expect to pay for a computer alone.

It's a complete computer system: the Commodore VIC 20 computer, a cassette unit, a simple explanation of computer programming (called "Introduction to Basic Part 1"), plus an exclusive compilation tape of four computer programs (Blitz, Type-a-Tune, Race, and Hoppit).

And all for just £149.99 or less.

It's a terrific opportunity to introduce yourself, and all your family, to the exciting world of home computers — and with what has been described as the best home computer in the world.

The VIC 20 has educational programs for all ages (spelling, physics, arithmetic, etc.), plus music, typing, chess and home accounts.

There are special programs like Robert Carrier's menu planner and BBC 'Mastermind', and not forgetting, of course, lots and lots of wonderful arcade games.

You'll very soon be exploring new worlds of colour, animation, and sound.

Not just with a vast choice of programs, but with unlimited scope for expansion in the future.

The VIC 20 is the perfect com-

puter to start with because you can keep adding to it, and so get even more enjoyment out of it.

There are printers, disk drives, memory expansion packs and many other peripherals to choose from.

Which means, as your confidence grows, so can your VIC 20.

Get the VIC 20 starter pack today, and we promise you'll never look back.

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VIC 20

YOU CAN SEE THE VIC 20 STARTER PACK AT ALL BRANCHES OF DIXONS, SELFRIDGES AND WALLACE HEATON, AND AT SELECTED BRANCHES OF BOOTS, RUMBELOWS, LASKYS, CURRYS, GREENS, ORBIT, MENZIES, LEWIS'S, MAKRO, TESCO, FINE FARE, WIGFALLS, SPECTRUM, COMET, JOHN LEWIS, WOOLWORTH, REDIFFUSION, CO-OP AND OTHER GOOD RETAILERS. ALSO AT BRANCHES OF A NATIONAL NETWORK OF COMMODORE COMPUTER DEALERS.

هكذا من الأصل

APPOINTMENTS

New overseas chief for Lloyds Bank

Lloyds Bank Overseas Division: Mr Peter Enterson is to become general manager, succeeding Mr Paul Clark, who retires next month. Mr Bill Bullock and Mr Geoffrey Higham will become assistant general managers.

Howard Machinery: Mr Chris Great has been appointed group marketing director. Charterhouse Japhet: Mr John Dembitz has become an assistant director.

Graham Mather: Mr Graham Hill who retires from the boards of Guinness Mahon Holdings and Guinness Mahon and Co. this month, is succeeded as chairman by Mr Albert Frost.

Tyne Tees: Three executive directors have joined the boards of Tyne Tees Television and Tyne Tees Television Holdings. Miss Andrea Womfor, director of programmes, Mr Chris Stoddart, director and general manager, and Mr David Hellewell, director of finance and company secretary.

Plassey: Sir Brian Tovey has been appointed chairman.

James Neil Holdings: Mr Hugh Neil is relinquishing management responsibilities as chairman as he approaches retirement and Mr Peter Bullcock, group chief executive, also assumes the position of chairman and chief executive of Neil Tools. Mr Michael Mallett will remain his previous role as a full-time executive director of James Neil Holdings.

James Neil Holdings: Mr Geoff Ward, marketing director of Neil Tools, who is retiring, will be retained as a marketing consultant and remain on the James Neil Holdings board. Mr Terry Harris, sales director of Neil Tools, will take over Mr Ward's executive responsibilities and will become marketing and sales director of Neil Tools. Mr Eric Bolam, managing director of Peter Stubs, the Group's Warrington-based subsidiary, has been appointed manufacturing director of Neil Tools. Mr G. H. N. Peel has been elected to the board of James Neil Holdings.

Coalite Group: Mr Peter Fowler has been appointed chairman.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

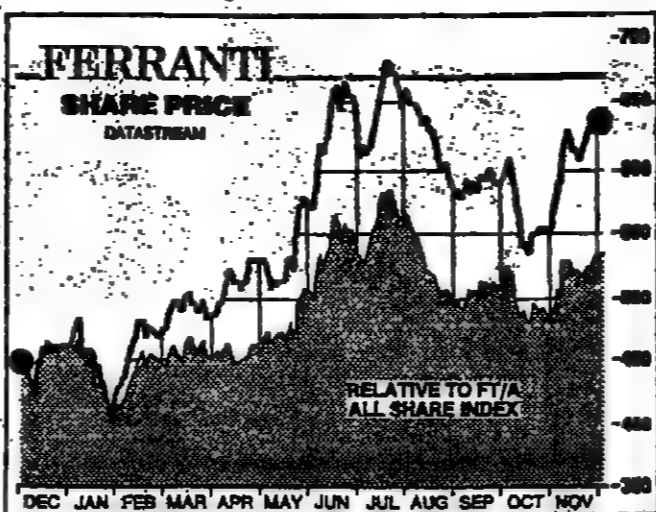
Ferranti subsidiaries chip in

Ferranti is not just a high technology company living on the largesse of the Ministry of Defence. Its fortunes are also intricately linked with capital investment by the world's post offices and energy industries, and the 25 per cent increase in Ferranti's interim pretax profits to £14.8m indicates how healthy those sectors are.

Computer systems and the Scottish group were the company's strongest performers last year and that pattern has continued into the current 10 months. Overall turnover is 30 per cent up at £207m, about 40 per cent of which came from defence in one guise or another.

Venus Scientific and Ocean Research Equipment, the American companies bought last year, account for a small part of the extra turnover. Prices changed little, partly a reflection of slower inflation, but consistent heavy investment in producing greater efficiency and wider margins.

An increase of 20 per cent in capital expenditure to £12m highlights how much Ferranti is committing to the future. Part of the investment was for



engineering division - which manufactures port handling equipment - is still losing money, even if the losses are contained at an acceptable level.

Nevertheless, engineering can hardly be a major worry. The balance sheet is remarkably strong, with cash reserves at around the £7m at the year end.

Even by the inflated standards of the Unlisted Securities Market, this is a creditable performance, the more so because most of the growth has been generated by humble cider. Merrydown has a mere 3 per cent of the market, which is still dominated by the likes of H P Bulmer, but seems undaunted.

Merrydown is in the happy position of watching overheads diminish rapidly as a proportion of turnover. This explains why profits rose so fast while turnover went up by only 31 per cent to £3.88m. The group has also had notable success in obtaining outlets in leading supermarkets.

The share price was static yesterday at 39.5p, where the yield is 2.2 per cent, quite different from most other USM stocks.

Vinten Group

Vinten Group easily met the best of City forecasts for the first half, with pretax profits climbing from £1m to £1.8m. The figures put 10p on the share price to 26.5p, where they yield 1.3 per cent on an earnings multiple of about 30, fully taxed.

The problem for the fast expanding group is not so much how to maintain growth but which opportunity to follow up. Its mainstream products of military reconnaissance systems and television equipment have continued growing strongly.

Henara cleared to seek full listing

By Jonathan Clark

Henara, the new hair products company, will try again this week for a public flotation after winning a clean bill of health for the natural ingredients of its henna based hair colourings.

The flotation, planned to take place more than two weeks ago, was abruptly halted when the former shareholder in Dixor-Strand, an associated group claimed that henna powders could cause cancer.

The flotation envisages a full quote for Henna (Hair Health), the private company of Mr Sydney Lerner, and a concurrent takeover of the already quoted Dixor-Strand, which is controlled by Mr Lerner.

The new company will be called Henara, the name under which its products are sold in chains such as J Sainsbury, Boots and Soperdrug.

Underwriting for the flotation is now expected to take place on Thursday, with publication of the prospectus on Friday.

Henara is likely to have a market value of between £10m and £12m.

WALL STREET

Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change
IBM	158.00	+	General Electric	110.00	+
AT&T	102.00	+	Westinghouse	45.00	+
Am. Express	55.00	+	Johnson & Johnson	28.00	+
Am. Intl. Corp.	40.00	+	Pfizer	25.00	+
Am. Oil	35.00	+	Merck & Co.	20.00	+
Am. Tel. & Tel.	30.00	+	Boehringer	18.00	+
Am. Water	25.00	+	Novartis	15.00	+
Am. Gas	20.00	+	Roche	12.00	+
Am. Elec.	18.00	+	Glaxo	10.00	+
Am. Chem.	15.00	+	SmithKline	8.00	+
Am. Pharm.	12.00	+	Beecham	7.00	+
Am. Food	10.00	+	Wellcome	6.00	+
Am. Bev.	8.00	+	Unilever	5.00	+
Am. Tobacco	7.00	+	Imperial	4.00	+
Am. Paper	6.00	+	Wm. Watson	3.00	+
Am. Textile	5.00	+	Woolworth	2.00	+
Am. Retail	4.00	+	Debenhams	1.00	+
Am. Travel	3.00	+	Thomas Cook	0.50	+
Am. Transport	2.00	+	British Airways	0.25	+
Am. Media	1.00	+	ITN	0.10	+
Am. Energy	0.50	+	BP	0.05	+
Am. Utilities	0.25	+	British Telecom	0.02	+

Merrydown

Merrydown would be a remarkable company indeed, if its share price were to reflect last year's performance. But the underlying profit growth is as strong as ever in the first half of the financial year, attributable profits very nearly doubled to £352,000. Shareholders were also treated to a 1p net dividend, their first interim payout.

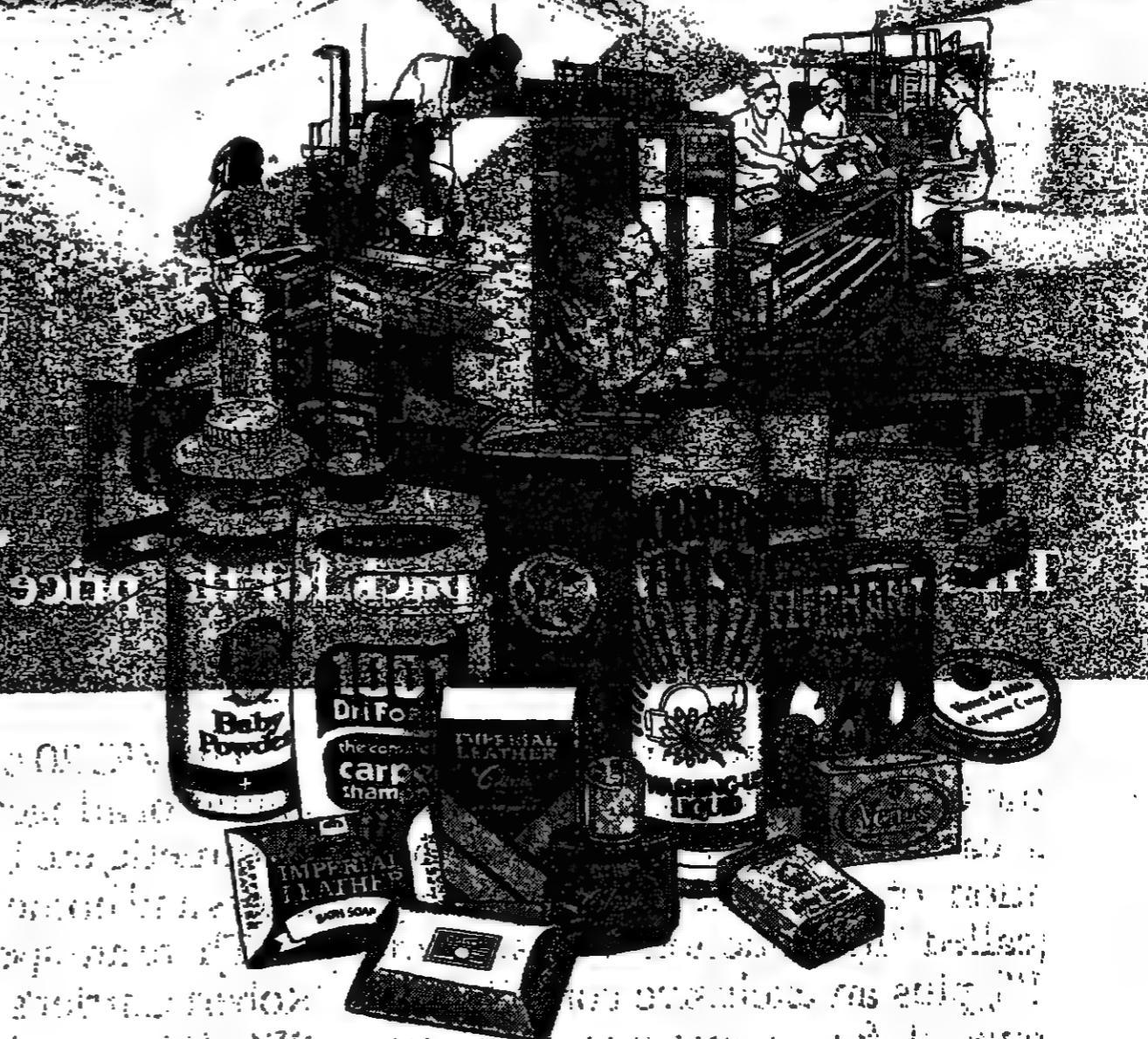
COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change
Am. Intl. Corp.	40.00	+	Am. Intl. Corp.	40.00	+
Am. Intl. Corp.	40.00	+	Am. Intl. Corp.	40.00	+
Am. Intl. Corp.	40.00	+	Am. Intl. Corp.	40.00	+
Am. Intl. Corp.	40.00	+	Am. Intl. Corp.	40.00	+
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Am. Intl. Corp.	40.00	+	Am. Intl. Corp.	40.00	+
Am. Intl. Corp.	40.00	+	Am. Intl. Corp.	40.00	+
Am. Intl. Corp.	40.00	+	Am. Intl. Corp.	40.00	+

COMMODITIES

Commodity	Price	Change	Commodity	Price	Change
Gold	380.00	+	Oil	25.00	+
Silver	15.00	+	Wheat	1.50	+
Copper	1.20	+	Corn	1.00	+
Aluminum	0.80	+	Soybeans	0.75	+
Zinc	0.60	+	Cotton	0.50	+
Nickel	0.40	+	Wool	0.30	+
Lead	0.30	+	Iron Ore	0.20	+
Steel	0.10	+	Coal	0.05	+
Gas	0.05	+	Electricity	0.02	+

Paterson Zochonis



Better than expected

Whilst profits have fallen compared with those of 1982, the reduction, particularly in the second half year, was not as great as earlier anticipated. The general down-turn in Nigeria was less acute in its effect on group operations than had been envisaged and the related losses to Cussons in the U.K., although severe, were brought under control more readily than had been expected.

the Nigerian associates and subject to unforeseen circumstances, group profits in the first half of the current year give every indication of being higher than the comparable period of last year.

John Zochonis Chairman

FINANCIAL SUMMARY	1983	1982
Group turnover	\$271.0m	\$311.0m
Profit before tax	\$26.9m	\$29.8m
Earnings per share	29.62p	30.86p
Dividends per share	4.75p	4.50p

Guarantee Trust PLC

1983	1982
10,244	10,244
141	141
27,870	27,870
(18,604)	(18,604)
9,066	9,066
(397)	(397)
8,669	8,669
985	985
9,654	9,654
(41)	(41)
9,613	9,613
3,670	3,670
(3,670)	(3,670)
9,613	9,613
(3,076)	(3,076)
(2,438)	(2,438)
4,099	4,099
1,88p	1,88p

- The directors will decide by any amount to be distributed under the employee profit sharing scheme when the results for the full year are known.
- The profit and loss account taxation charge relates to advance corporation tax on dividends less a credit of £100,000 for losses utilised against chargeable gains.
- Capital profits less losses after capital charges and taxation comprise:

Surplus of sale proceeds over original cost of property less taxation	£'000
Profit on sale of investments less taxation	2,130
Other items	(575)
	1,555

Note: The above surplus on sale of properties includes attributable valuation surpluses previously taken up in capital reserve of £3,355,000; this amount and £1,328,000 relating to exchange losses have now been written off in capital reserve.

- The directors have declared the payment of an interim ordinary dividend of 0.325p net, in respect of the year to 24 March 1984. Warrants will be despatched on 3 February 1984 to ordinary shareholders on the register at the close of business on 22 December 1983. In the absence of unforeseen circumstances it is expected that a final ordinary dividend of 0.585p net will be recommended making a total of 0.91p for the year, an increase of 30% over last year.
- The audited profit and loss account for the year to 24 March 1983 is an extract from the latest published accounts of the Company which have been delivered to the registrar of companies: the report of the auditors on those accounts was qualified because no provision had been made for tax liabilities which might arise if properties were to be realised at the net book values shown in the balance sheets.

Base Lending Rates

Bank of England	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank	9%
Consolidated Credit	9%
C. Hoare & Co.	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

RUGBY UNION

Cambridge light on Blues but they should emerge with flying colours

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

On the face of it Oxford University, despite the loss yesterday of Millerchip, their left wing, go into the University Match against Cambridge University at Twickenham today with the more experienced players and the incentive of ending the Light Blue domination of the fixture which has brought them nine wins in the last 11 years.

Five of Oxford's backs - it would have been six but for the hamstring injury to the unfortunate Millerchip allowing Findlay to win the Blue - have experienced the tense atmosphere of Twickenham before, as have three of their forwards.

Only four of Cambridge's sides are Blue, though all of them have appeared on the winning side. Of Oxford's Blues, only one has enjoyed the heady wine of victory and that is O'Brien, who was twice in winning Cambridge sides and now appears for Oxford, the first player to win honours in rugby at both universities.

Records of - both universities this term have been disappointing. Oxford's substantially more than Cambridge's. In their senior club games, Cambridge has had the consolation of a win over Harlequins, a draw with Richmond and numerous defeats by a mere handful of points.

Oxford have a solitary win over Oxford Town in a term riddled with injuries, though in that respect Cambridge have hardly been let off lightly. It would be no surprise to see a couple of replacements winning Blues today.

Both captains, MacNeill of Oxford and Bailey of Cambridge, would like to see an open game, though the demands of the occasion may stunt their ambition. MacNeill, ever a generous competitor, acknowledges the contribution Cambridge have made to the game over the last decade with a series of free-running sides.

"There is a distinct atmosphere in university rugby which we don't get anywhere else," he said. Perhaps it's a naive atmosphere, that things will always get better but a lot of rugby at the top level is very cynical. People with vision and enthusiasm at the top level are more rare.

MacNeill has been keen to see his players enjoying themselves, but seldom, against bigger, stronger club sides have they had the chance to express themselves. Oxford's main weakness has been in the tight, where Gargan has been overworked at lineouts, and at half back, where Pearson and Barnes have not formed a fluid partnership.

Yet Barnes has the talent, given half-decent ball, to dominate a university match, as a runner or a kicker. He will be the main thorn in Cambridge's side as will MacNeill's incursions from full back; it is to be hoped that his knee injury sustained in the middle of last month has had time to heal.

Bailey, too, as befits a wing, wants to see his side play 15-man rugby. His forwards have one well this term: the lock, Evans, has impressed some knowledgeable observers and Ellison, at No 8, has shown considerable potential. The possibilities presented by backs like Andrew, Smith, Bailey are immense. It is the occasion which may prove daunting.

If we are to see an open game it will depend upon one side obtaining a definite advantage, hence the confidence to use their backs, and that is a condition seldom met in the university match. Nevertheless, the all-round ability of Cambridge should win them the Bowring Bowl for the fourth successive year.

Romania considers date from England

By David Hands

England, the last of the four home unions to play Romania with a full representative side, has offered January 5, 1985, as the date for a match with the country who beat Wales last month and, on Sunday, went down 26-15 to France in a brilliant international in Toulouse.

The Romanians, who were hoping for a three-match tour, are mulling over the date which follows the official invitation made by Derek Morgan, the chairman of the England selectors, to participate in the scheduled game between England and a World XV on September 29 to celebrate 75 years of international rugby at Twickenham.

Dick Byrnes, the Australian referee who took charge of the last two internationals between New Zealand and the British Lions last summer, will officiate in two of this season's international championship games: Ireland v Wales on February 4 and Wales v France on February 18. This is line with recommendations by the International Board.

The four home unions committee have also approved a concept of invitation sides from their countries taking part in the world seven-side tournament in Hong Kong, Public School Wanderers, Crawshaw's Welsh and the Irish Wolfhounds were all been invited to participate in the tournament, to be held next March 31 and April 1.

Scotland will make a brief visit to Romania next May, when they will play select XV's in Bucharest and Constanta and return to Bucharest on May 30 for a full international, when the Scottish RU will award caps. The four home unions committee, meeting over the weekend, also agreed matches with Romania for the next three seasons: France will visit them next season; the Romanians visit England; in 1985-86 Romania visit France and Scotland visit Romania; in 1986-87 France visit Romania and Romania visit Ireland.

The Romanians have been making rumbling noises about their English visit over the last two months and, at the same time, they are negotiating the possibility of a game with Australia, to be held next autumn as a warm-up to the

RACING: SLIPPERY CONDITIONS CAUSE ACCIDENTS AT NOTTINGHAM



Odie leads Sir Blessed at the last on her way to victory at Nottingham (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Horgan's first lady Smith breaks a leg

By John Karter

Having begun his career with the great trainer Angel Penna in New York and then moved on to become assistant to another almost legendary figure, Ryan Price, at Findon, any Horgan looked a racing certainty to become an instant success when he set up on his own at the beginning of the 1983 Flat season.

However, racing certainties, as anyone in the game knows only too well, let us down with monotonous regularity and Horgan was no exception. He had walked straight into a nightmare as everything that could go wrong did, notably a particular debilitating virus that swept through the stable and virtually brought his operation to a standstill. Horgan's pet apparently told him that he had had more trouble in one season than most trainers have to endure in a lifetime.

The season yielded just four winners, but there can be little doubt that the personable Irishman's wealth of knowledge and experience will very soon bring rich dividends. Horgan will start next season with some 35 horses at Findon, most of whom are largely untried. Until then Horgan is keeping the rust from the engines by running three jumpers and one of these, Sarah's Venture, who runs in today's Puckwell Novices Hurdle at Leicester has already brought the sparkle back into Horgan's eyes with easy wins at Windsor and Wincanton.

Sarah's Venture was tried at stud before she came to Horgan, but obviously has more of a penchant for racing than motherhood, and she could gain a third successive victory today despite the presence of two other winners.

Victory for Sarah's Venture would certainly do no harm to the prospects of Silver Maid in Hereford's Oaks and Celtic Cone Novices Hurdle. Although no match for Sarah's Venture at Wincanton, Silver Maid came from a long way behind to take second place then. Fred Winter, who sends several fancied runners to the course, will saddle the likely favourite in Silver Linda, who finished a promising second to The Ganger Man.

Whatever the fate of Silver Linda, though, Winter, whose recent form has been causing a few furores, should return home with two prizes through Usurping (12.15) and Don Giovanni (2.45).

Leicester

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Leicester selections

By John Karter

12.30 Sam's Venture, 10 Merton, 1.30 Navaro, 2.30 Johnny Targum, 2.30 Kars.

Hereford

12	104949	MOWEY CREEK (J Connolly) P O'Donnell 5-11-2	Mr D Trow 7
13	104950	COLLEGE BIRD (M Wrenn) M J Hargrave 5-11-2	Mr D Trow 7
14	104951	QUICKLE BARK (P McInerney-Slater) T Forster 9-10-12	J Devine 6
15	104952	ST. TOR (P Whaley) Mrs A Kearns 10-11-2	P Stone 7
16	104953	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	P Stone 7
17	104954	COVENT GARDEN (J Carey) P Whaley 5-10-9	A Webber 8
18	104955	DAWN STRIP (J Carey) P Bailey 5-10-9	P Stone 7
19	104956	BUTTON PRINCE (Sheikh Ali Abd Khamsan) L Kennard 5-10-10	R Linsky 6
20	104957	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	P Stone 7
11-4 Lushington, 3 Statue Prince, 4 Dawn Strips, 5 Ivory Creek, 10 Double Pine, 12 Member's Hurdle, 16 others.			
2.45 BRISTOW CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HURDLE (4-y-o selling: 5818: 2m) (11)			
1	104958	WINDMILL (D Tucker) D Tucker 11-4	P Stone 7
2	104959	DIAGONAL (H Thwaites-Jones) W Elsey 11-4	Mr Harford 6
3	104960	NATIVE HEIR (H White) W Clay 10-10	Mr Harford 6
4	104961	WATSON (H White) M J Vennart 10-10	Mr Harford 6
5	104962	HAWTHORN (L Tomlin) P Pritchard 10-10	P Power 6
6	104963	ST. GEORGE (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
7	104964	PRINGLE (D Warrley) D White 10-10	J Whelan 8
8	104965	SHAMROCK NAIL (J Taylor) B Preece 10-10	G Charles Jones 6
9	104966	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
10	104967	MARQUESSIC CUE (P Macdonald) R Howe 10-10	G Macdonald 6
11	104968	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) LRP P Harries 10-10	D Griffin 6
11-4 Pritchard, 3 Harries, 10 Wrenn, 10-10, 5 Fair Postie, 12-8 In Silks, 18 others.			
1.15 BRIDGE COLLARS CHASE (Div 1: novices: £1,240: 2m 4f) (9)			
1	104969	BARGELLO SON (Mrs J Hargrave) M Kennick 11-5	M Vennart 7
2	104970	JUST FOR THE CRACK (D Wynn) K Grace 5-11-2	M Parrett 6
3	104971	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
4	104972	SPACE CADET (Dunne Motors) R H Dunn 6-10-12	R Dennis 4
5	104973	TUDOR SOURCE (D Tucker) D Tucker 10-10	P Stone 7
6	104974	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
7	104975	MEINERSHORN (P Dufosse) P Dufosse 5-10-9	Mr G McNeill 6
8	104976	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	A Webber 8
9	104977	MOODY OT (Mrs A Harlow) Mrs P. Cullen Price 11-5	Mr Cullen Price 6
7-4 Just For The Crack, 5-4 Meinershorn, 5 Remembrance Rock, 10 Bargeello Son, 12 Spots 18 others.			
1.45 CREDENHILL CHASE (handicap: £1,803: 3m 1f) (13)			
1	104978	SORRELLA BOY (Mrs H Rogerson) Mrs H Rasmussen 8-11-10	Mr T Moulthrop 6
2	104979	LEANDER BIRD (Mrs M Rogerson) D Nicholson 6-11-3	P Stone 7
3	104980	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
4	104981	TRISKA (A Hunt) L Tucker 7-10-11	C Brown 6
5	104982	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
6	104983	FRED FILLERIN (H Johnson) M Scudamore 8-10-8	J Devine 6
7	104984	PUCKA PELLA (CJ) (Mrs M Tucker) Mrs D Tucker 8-10-5	P Richards 6
8	104985	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
9	104986	WAVE JACQ (CJ) (Mrs W Hayes) Mrs W Hayes 7-10-2	J Bryan 6
10	104987	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	Mrs Linda 6
11	104988	PERSONALITY PLUS (D Pickington) W Francis 7-10-0	C Crank 6
12	104989	STORMY SPRING (Mrs T Picketing) D Nicholson 8-10-10	M Mackinn 6
13	104990	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
4 Fred Piller, 3-4 Leander Bird, 5 Triska, 12-8 Wave Jacq, 8 Spread Out, 10 Sorrells Boy, 12 Lushington, 12 Lushington, Spring Spring, 14 Pucka Pella, 16 others.			
1.05 OT & CELTIC COW HURDLE (Hochst Regumate Qualifier: 1049: 2m 4f) (18)			
1	104991	DEEP MOPPET (Parthen Bros) R D Gaudin 5-11-5	P Barton 6
2	104992	POULCH HAKKI (CJ) (E Brown) E Brown 5-11-4	P Barton 6
3	104993	FREE CHOICE (Mrs M O'Brien) M O'Brien 5-11-5	Mr W O'Brien 5
11-5 Silks Lush, 3 Silver Maid, 6 Deep Moppet, 13-8 Ladygroves, 8 Another Opalite, 8 Only Best, 10 Free Choice, 14 Justice Dove, 18 others.			
2.45 GREY GEMMER HURDLE (4-y-o novices: £1,508: 2m) (17)			
1	104994	DICKS FOLLY (D) (P Thwaites-Jones) H Hodges 11-4	G McCourt 6
2	104995	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
3	104996	KILSTYH (U Wynn) D Burchill 11-4	W Knox 7
4	104997	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	P Stone 7
5	104998	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
6	104999	CORPORAL CLINGER (Jae Rae Reeling) Luff 11-4	P Leach 6
7	105000	FAVE LOVE (E Evans) E Evans 11-4	P Leach 6
8	105001	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
9	105002	MORGANS GOLD (P Morgan) P Oliver 11-4	M Richards 7
10	105003	OUTLAW (R White) W Clay 11-4	A Webber 8
11	105004	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
12	105005	SAUCY YULGAN (Miss E Sneyd) Hines E Sneyd 11-4	R Strong 4
13	105006	SUPER SPARK (C Oates) R Perkins 11-4	Mr W Williams 6
14	105007	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
15	105008	ZUCHETTA (Mrs E Couraghe) Mrs E Couraghe 11-4	Mr D. P. 6
16	105009	COYOTE (D Gaudin) C H Price 10-9	10 Cocks 6
6-4 Don Giovanni, 7-4 Killyn, 4 Steel Kix, 8 Corporal Clinger, 8 Tuffy Jones, 10 Dick's Folly, 16 others.			
3.15 BISHOPS FROME HURDLE (handicap: £1,102: 2m) (22)			
1	105010	BALTHOUSE (D) (R Turley) A Barron 6-12-0	P Stone 7
2	105011	MOSCAT (D) (M Gabe) E Pelling 5-11-3	A Griffith 7
3	105012	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
4	105013	TUFFY TRIPPER (D) (S Asthal) N Henderson 5-11-7	J Francis 6
5	105014	WALLACE (D) (R Turley) A Barron 6-12-0	P Stone 7
6	105015	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
7	105016	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
8	105017	GEORGE JUPITER (D) (A Carver) C Thwaites 11-4	R Strong 4
9	105018	GALLOD (D) (Mrs S. Rasmussen) R Rasmussen 8-11-1	Mr M. J. 6
10	105019	CONS PAL (CJ) (E Johnson) D White 5-11-1	J Warrren 7
11	105020	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	D Crank 6
12	105021	DORRONS CHASE (CJ) (E Evans) E Evans 5-10-12	J Devine 6
13	105022	KNOWS CYNBAL (M Hogg) J Warrren 8-11-3	A Wicks 6
14	105023	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
15	105024	THINKERS TRIP (R Warrren) O Warrren 8-11-3	W Hayes 7
16	105025	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
17	105026	BENNING LASS (D) (R Hodges) R Hodges 4-10-4	Mr R Durnoddy 7
18	105027	MOUNTAIN MAN (D) (Mrs W Allagar) R Bingham 7-10-4	C Jones 6
19	105028	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
20	105029	STAR ALLIANCE (D) (R Butler) R Morris 5-10-2	P Leach 6
21	105030	WAVE VELVET (CJ) (M Spaulding) S Warrren 8-11-4	J Moneys 6
22	105031	ST. THOMAS (P Macdonald) P Whaley 6-10-8	J Devine 6
23	105032	BURGESS (CJ) (N Price) W Price 4-10-1	R Linsky 6
3 Riders T. Finely, 7-4 Benning Lass, 5 Sae Pinner, 6 Mosses, 8 Symptomate, 8 Wally Worthing, 10 Galloos, 12 Durnoddy, 15 others.			
Hеред selections By John Karter			
12.15 Uurrying, 12.45 Majestic Cue, 1.15 Just For The Crack, 1.45 Fred Fillerin, 2.15 Silver Maid, 2.45 Don Giovanni, 3.15 Rusty T. Furdy.			

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UNITED KINGDOM RESIDENTS

The gross dividend is **£8.16599635** per Sub-Share and is subject to the following deductions:-

15% Dutch Tax	= £0.02394795 per Sub-Share
15% U.K. Tax	= £0.02394795 per Sub-Share
Exchange and B.N. Comm.	= £0.0022253 per Sub-Share
Net Payment	= £8.1162792 per Sub-Share

NEW RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Where 25% Dutch Tax is applicable, the following deduction apply:-

25% Dutch Tax	= £0.04176699 per Sub-Share
35% U.K. Tax on net dividend (before tax credit)	= £0.05757193 per Sub-Share
Exchange and B.N. Comm.	= £0.0022253 per Sub-Share
Net Payment	= £8.06548530 per Sub-Share

Where 15% Dutch Tax is applicable the calculations are as for **United Kingdom**

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